



A Weekly Journal of Pharmacy and the Drug-trade.

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#### Our Winter Issue.

WE desire to remind advertisers that the Annual Winter Issue of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* will be published on the last Saturday of this month, January 27. For that issue we can receive circulars and price-lists for stitching-in with other advertisement-pages, and as the time is now short for preparing such insets, we strongly recommend all advertisers who are thinking of having one in our Winter Issue to communicate with the Publisher as soon as possible. The time is good for pushing business, and the universal circulation of our Winter Issue is the best assurance that business will return to advertisers from all parts of the globe.

#### Summary.

A POSTCARD COMPETITION is announced on p. 34.

SEASONABLE SPECIALITIES for counter-trade are mentioned on p. 14.

THE NEW ZEALAND PHARMACY BILL has now passed the Legislature (p. 5).

THE NEW POINTS about the Sale of Food and Drugs Act are detailed on p. 22.

AN Irish doctor has taken carbolic acid in mistake for fluid magnesia. He died (p. 4).

CANADIAN TRADE, especially in drugs and chemicals, is the subject of a note on p. 20.

ON WHOLESALE PRESCRIBING, Mr. Jackson, of Norwich writes a pungent letter, which is printed on p. 30.

COLESBERG is a place of interest this week. We give on p. 5 a portrait of Mr. Gardner, who has a pharmacy there.

THE sale of green vitriol for blue vitriol still appears to be common, and the Royal Agricultural Society is taking notice of it (p. 3).

MR. JAMES REID wants to do something to make novelists better acquainted with pharmaceutical qualifications (p. 30).

A PROCLAMATION by the Queen, printed on p. 10, forbids business with or for the Orange Free State and the South African Republic.

THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' SOCIETY appears to be in a flourishing condition. The report of the annual meeting is given on p. 2.

PORTRAITS of Mr. Culver and Mr. Raphael, the new members of the Optical Committee of the Spectacle-makers' Company, are given on p. 9.

TWO of the young chemists who have gone to South Africa as Army compounders tell us about their experience in Aldershot. It was rough (p. 11).

OUR WAR NOTES are exceptionally interesting this week, and include paragraphs about chemists serving in and from towns affected by the war (p. 10).

NORTH OF IRELAND DRUGGISTS want increased representation on the Pharmaceutical Council, and have decided to discourage stamp-trading (p. 27).

SIR HENRY LITTLEJOHN, Government Medical Adviser in Scotland, says that competition is so keen in Glasgow that druggists will sell chloral to anyone (p. 4 and p. 22).

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK has been elevated to the peerage, and Dr. Lauder Brunton is to be knighted. We give their portraits and mention other New Year honours on p. 7.

OUR STUDENTS' CORNER is to appear more frequently in future. This week's contains an account of the Minor examination, and the questions given in the Major this month (p. 15).

MR. R. J. DOWNES has resigned the Presidency of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and Mr. Beggs has been appointed in his place, Mr. Bernard being the new Vice-President (p. 3).

COLONEL SEDGWICK, the Royal Engineer who is responsible for the chipped-atom theory, has published further speculations on the constitution of matter, which are commented upon on p. 19.

OUR OBITUARY PAGE includes this week the names of Mr. F. E. Cohnan (Norwich), Sir James Paget, Alderman Palmer (Grimsby), Mr. R. Sells (Buxted), and Mr. H. C. Thorne (Brighton) (p. 10).

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS has begun fairly well in Mincing Lane trade; quinine has risen  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., and German camphor 1d. We print London drug-statistics for December, and letters from Yokohama and other correspondents (p. 34).

MR. C. UMNEY, in criticising Professor Tirard's references to the pharmacists and the Pharmacopœia (fully dealt with on p. 18), outlines a scheme of co-operation between the General Medical Council and the Pharmaceutical Societies (p. 23).

## English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

### Ascough Scholarship.

The daughters of the late Mr. Jesse Ascough, of the Grange, Handsworth, have offered the University of Birmingham a donation of 1,000*l.* to found a scholarship in chemistry at the University, to be called the Ascough Scholarship. Mr. Ascough, it may be remembered, was a chemist and druggist in Wolverhampton for many years before he interested himself in Californian borax, which he very successfully worked before it was taken over by the Californian Borax Company.

### Oxalic Acid in Jersey.

An inquest was held in Jersey last week on the body of a man, named Lucas, who was found dead under circumstances which left no room for doubt that he had drunk a solution of oxalic acid. The superintendent of police (Centenier Renouf) said he had, at the suggestion of the official analyst (Mr. F. Woodland Toms, F.I.C., F.C.S.), called on various chemists and asked to see their records of poison-purchases. Though he was glad to see these were properly kept, he learnt with surprise that oxalic acid was evidently not considered a deadly poison by the Legislature for neither the English nor local Act placed any restrictions upon its sale. Several of the chemists would, he added, be glad to see legislation on the subject introduced, and there was no reason why that should not be done locally, carbolic acid being scheduled in Jersey, though not in England. Mr. P. T. Mutton, chemist (a witness), said he had not sold oxalic acid to deceased to his knowledge, though, in any case, it would have been labelled "poison," as was his constant rule.

### Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Institution.

The general court of this admirable institution was held at the Cannon Street Hotel on December 29, the President (Mr. T. F. Blackwell, J.P.) in the chair. The annual report, read by the Secretary (Mr. Leonard Courtney) stated that the past year had been one of phenomenal prosperity. The total receipts, including 12,582*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, which had been drawn from the jubilee festival account, were 26,809*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* A sum of 10,812*l.* 10*s.* had been expended in annuities, 10,814*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* had been devoted to the purchase of stock, and, after all expenses had been paid, a balance of 3,542*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* remained. The total amount received on behalf of the jubilee fund had been 20,640*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, and, after transfers to current account and permanent capital, the fund had now a balance of 6,555*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* at the bank. At the present time there were 352 annuitants, costing 10,565*l.* annually. Since its commencement the institution had disbursed 206,000*l.* amongst 700 annuitants. Some further business having been transacted, Mr. A. P. Allen was re-elected the Treasurer, and the board of management were also unanimously reappointed.

### Contract.

*Maidstone Union.*—Mr. T. G. Stonham, chemist, for drugs, 33*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

### More Oil Disappearing.

A further loss of 250 gals. of olive oil is reported from the same storehouse in Devonport Dockyard from which about 1,000 gals. were missed a few months ago. An investigation into the affair will be held by the Admiralty, as the explanation offered in the previous case will hardly apply in this instance. It was then stated that the loss was due to leakage which had extended over a number of years, which would work out at about 4 or 5 gals. a day, but the present loss is about sixty times that amount in a little over twelve hours.

### Wasted Denunciation.

At Kensington, on December 28, Mr. Coroner Drew held an inquest on the body of a harness-maker's apprentice named Roberts. The evidence of the deceased's mother was to the effect that she went to a chemist and got a bottle of

medicine for her son, for which she paid 9*d.* The chemist said nothing about calling in a doctor.

Albert Phillips, chemist and druggist, 330 Portobello Road, stated that the mother came to him for medicine for her son, who had, she said, a feverish cold, and he prepared a mixture.

The Coroner: Practically you prescribed for him!—Yes.

You know you have broken the law by doing so!—It was a simple case.

The Coroner: It was not a simple case, and you are liable to a penalty of 20*l.*

Witness said he always told people to call in a doctor, but, in reply to a direct question, said he could not remember whether he did so or not on that occasion.

The Coroner said it was the duty of the chemist simply to make up medicine, and not to treat for disease. One might as well expect that the oilman mixing up paints for the artist could himself paint the picture. It was extremely dangerous to prescribe, principally because people waited to find if the medicine would do good before the doctor was called, and by that time it was too late for the doctor to do any good.

Dr. McKinnell said death was due to heart-disease, and, having heard what the medicine contained, said he did not think it would have any influence on the case either way.

### The Sign to Come Down.

At a meeting of Chelmsford Town Council on December 27, the Roads Committee reported that the Town Clerk had written to Parke's Drug Stores Company requesting them to remove the signboard erected on the front of their premises in the High Street. The company replied that if the Council had decided that in the interests of the town signboards were objectionable, and had come to a general arrangement for the removal of them throughout the borough, they would at once fall in with the Council's wishes. The committee intimated that they were of opinion that the signboard in question should be removed, and recommended that formal notice to remove it or place it flat on the wall be now sent, and if the notice were not complied with the Surveyor should be authorised to have the signboard removed, and that the costs be recovered from the company. Councillor Spalding moved that action be suspended while the whole question of signboards was considered, but on a vote being taken eight were in favour of the amendment and thirteen for the committee's recommendation.

### Trade-prospects in Hull.

"Local chemists do not speak very optimistically of the condition of the trade during the past year," writes our Hull correspondent, "nor do they anticipate very rosy prospects with the coming year. Business generally is lifeless, the greatest grievance of the hour being the competition which has increased during the past year with 'store-chemists,' whose cutting propensities have had the effect of sadly dislocating recognised prices. The smallpox epidemic during the latter half of the year has been rather beneficial than otherwise to trade, but beyond the increased demand for disinfectants, &c., it gave little impetus to business."

### Helping the Fire.

On December 22, Mr. D. W. McVittie, chemist and druggist, Maryport, poured some turpentine on the fire in order to make it burn brighter. The flames shot out into the room, and both Mr. and Mrs. McVittie were so badly burnt about the face that they had to seek medical aid.

### Property-sale.

At the Red Lion Hotel, Caistor, on December 23, two lots of freehold property, forming part of the estate of the late Mr. James Chant, chemist, were sold. The amount realised was 190*l.*

### Charge of Falsification.

At the Mansion House on December 2, John Thorn Ainslie Walker (32), described as a chemist but not on the register, was charged, on remand, with falsifying the accounts of Messrs. Forbes, Abbott & Lennard (Limited), chemical manufacturers, Gracechurch Street, E.C. In June last the prosecutors had a quantity of carbonate of ammonia in New York, which they were desirous of selling, and they suggested



that the prisoner should spend his holiday there, they paying his expenses, and that while there he should sell the carbonate of ammonia for them and also appoint a firm to act as agents for them. The prisoner sold the carbonate of ammonia for \$1,680. On his return to London in October the prisoner was questioned as to the \$1,680, and he said that a wallet containing \$1,400 of that sum had been stolen from him, and presented an account showing expenses amounting to \$280. Mr. Grain, for the prosecution, asked the Alderman to commit the prisoner for trial for embezzling the \$1,680, as well as for falsification of accounts. Prisoner was committed for falsification of accounts only.

#### "Silverine" for Peppermint.

At Stockport on January 2, an inquest was held touching the death of a girl named Rosa Langley, who, not being well, was advised by her mother to take a teaspoonful of peppermint. Instead of peppermint the girl, by mistake, took a teaspoonful of "silverine," which was in a similar bottle without a label. The girl was taken ill and died. The "silverine," which was found to be a mixture of nitric acid and mercury, was obtained from a hawker in the marketplace, and the Coroner said he would communicate with the Chief Constable in order that hawkers should not be allowed to sell poisons in unlabelled bottles.

#### Fires.

A fire occurred on the evening of December 28 in a store-room—situated in Lower Priory—of the premises of Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited), Birmingham. The fire-brigade was called out and succeeded in extinguishing the fire before any serious damage was done.

On January 1 Evison's chemical-manure works at Ramsey, Huntingdonshire, were destroyed by fire, and 500 tons of sulphuric acid were released through the melting of the leaden tanks. The liquid flooded the premises and considerable quantities flowed into a branch of the river Nene, destroying thousands of fish.

On Wednesday morning, January 3, a fire broke out at the soapworks of Messrs. Cook & Sons (Limited), Bow. The outbreak was discovered in the melting-house—a large building, 150 feet by 80 feet, of two floors—by the resident engineer, and an alarm was sent to the West Ham and the Bow fire-stations. The manual engine and the hydrants on the premises were got to work, but the flames spread rapidly, and when the fire-brigades came the building was fully alight. The fire was subdued, and, though causing inconvenience, will not interfere with the business of the firm.

A fire broke out on December 28 on the premises of Messrs. Bourne, Johnson & Latimer, druggists' sundries manufacturers, 34 and 35 Funnival Street, E.C. The flames originated, from an unknown cause, in a back room on the second floor of No. 34, and had apparently made a good deal of headway before they were discovered by one of the workmen, but in less than an hour the outbreak was extinguished. The back part of the second floor was burnt out, and the contents of the front part were badly damaged. The stock of bandages, ointment-boxes, crutches, &c., on the third or top floor was seriously damaged by fire, heat, smoke, and water; and the contents of the floors underneath and in the basement were damaged by water and dirt.

#### Carbolic Case.

A Salford woman named Dewhurst, on December 29, died in the Salford Royal Hospital from carbolic-acid poisoning.

#### The Cambridge Rockets.

According to an ancient custom, originated in 1825 by Mr. Isaiah Deck, father of the present Alderman Deck, pharmaceutical chemist, Cambridge, two rockets are discharged each New Year's Eve from the King's Parade, Cambridge. The first sent up, just on the stroke of 12, is symbolical of the death of the old year, and the second heralds the advent of the new. The ceremony this year was carried out as usual, Alderman Deck applying lights to each of the rockets in succession, amid a large congregation of spectators. A verse of the National Anthem was sung, hearty greetings were exchanged, and the company dispersed.

#### Blue Compound for Blue Vitriol.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Dr. Voelcker, the chemist, submitted the following report:—

Warnings have been given from time to time in the reports of the Chemical Committee to purchasers of "blue vitriol" (sulphate of copper) for wheat-dressing, potato-spraying, charlock-eradication, and other purposes, that they should be careful to see that what is supplied to them is the genuine material, and not a mixture of sulphate of copper and sulphate of iron ("green vitriol") in varying proportions—a mixture sometimes sold as "agricultural sulphate of copper."

The necessity of this precaution is emphasised by the following case:—Mr. A. Julian Pell, of Wilburton Manor, Ely, purchased on October 20 from a local druggist 60 lbs. of blue vitriol, at a price of 3s. 3d. per 14 lbs. This Mr. Pell intended to use for dressing his seed-wheat, and he had it made up into 1-lb. packets, the parcel being labelled by the vendor "Blue vitriol." "Blue vitriol," it may be pointed out, should be sulphate of copper, commercially pure, and contain no admixture of sulphate of iron. On receiving from Mr. Pell a sample of the purchase, I found it to contain 30 per cent. of sulphate of iron ("green vitriol"). When Mr. Pell complained to the vendor, the latter frankly told him that he had sold it knowing it to be an adulterated article, adding, by way of excuse, that "blue vitriol" was understood in the trade to be not pure sulphate of copper, but a mixture adulterated to the extent of 20 or 30 per cent. with sulphate of iron, and that people would not pay the small extra charge for pure sulphate of copper. He had purchased it in bulk from a wholesale firm; but they, it appeared on further inquiry, had described it not as "blue vitriol," but as "blue compound," so the druggist was himself alone to blame for selling it as "blue vitriol." The price, 3s. 3d. per stone, works out to 26l. per ton. Mr. A. J. Pell subsequently purchased a further supply for use, and this came labelled "Genuine sulphate of copper," and was found to be so.

In his annual report to the Council Dr. Voelcker refers to this matter at considerable length, and mentions cases that have come under his notice in which he found 20 per cent. and 30 per cent., and even as much as 90 per cent., of admixture of sulphate of iron, while in one instance already reported the so-called "blue vitriol" consisted entirely of green vitriol (sulphate of iron), coloured with Prussian blue so as to make it look like blue vitriol.

## Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### Resignation of the President.

We are authorised to state that Mr. Robert J. Downes (President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland) has sent a letter to the Council resigning the presidency on the score of ill-health. Mr. Downes entered three months ago into his third year of office. We are informed that his determination to resign is due to his continued indisposition, which prevents him taking that active part in the affairs of the Society which is necessary to the proper carrying out of the objects for which it was formed twenty-five years ago. The regrettable electric-tramway accident which befel Mr. Downes a short time ago, and of which we made mention at the time, has contributed in no small degree to his present bad state of health. [At the monthly Council-meeting held on January 3 the resignation was accepted with regret. Mr. G. D. Beggs was elected President, and the vacancy thus caused in the Vice-Presidency filled by Mr. Bernard.—ED.]

#### Personal.

At the annual distribution of prizes in connection with the City Technical Schools, Dublin, Mr. David O'Sullivan, M.P.S.I., received prizes for theoretical and practical inorganic chemistry.

At a meeting of the employés of Messrs. Millin & Rankin, mineral-water manufacturers, Belfast, last week, a presentation was made to Mr. W. Rankin on the occasion of his appointment as managing-director to Messrs. Kirker & Co. (Limited), mineral-water manufacturers, Academy Street, Belfast.

THE ANTRIM ANALYST.—At the meeting of the Antrim County Council to be held in Belfast on January 16 the appoint-

ment of analyst for the county will come up, in succession to the late Dr. Hodges. I believe (writes a correspondent) that his son, Mr. H. W. Hodges, will secure the position, as previously he did the work in conjunction with his esteemed father.

Sir James Haslett, M.P. for North Belfast, and head of the drug firm of J. & J. Haslett (Limited), Belfast, is now thoroughly restored to health. On January 1 he presided over the meeting of the Finance Committee of the company, and he was cordially welcomed back to the chair by the members. On January 3 he attended the usual monthly meeting of the company.

#### Moving and Improving.

Mr. J. C. C. Payne, pharmaceutical chemist, Belfast (President of last year's British Pharmaceutical Conference), in removing his branch at Holywood from one building to another, has taken the opportunity to have the new premises entirely refitted. The whole of the work has been well carried out by Messrs. Ayrton & Saunders, of Liverpool, and the result is a very handsome pharmacy.

#### Wants Information.

At the meeting of the Macroom (co. Cork) Guardians, a letter which Dr. Crowley had sent to the L.G.B. was received. The letter complained that no information as to the appointment of an analyst to the Union had been given him, nor had he been told how samples were to be forwarded. The Clerk was instructed to send all necessary information on the subject to Dr. Crowley forthwith.

#### Medical Officers' Complaints.

Dr. Potts, Forkhill, has reported to the Newry Board of Guardians that the contractor for medical and surgical appliances (Mr. Robert Campbell, Belfast) had supplied him with some labels which were not equal to the standard samples. Dr. McDermott-Poyntz wrote to the same Guardians stating that he could not certify Mr. Campbell's invoice. He did not get the goods until November, a month after the order was sent, and the invoice did not reach him until December. One article, a Higginson's syringe, was worthless. Three gross of corks had been ordered, but only 1 gross came. Labels "For outward use only" were ordered, and those sent were "For external application only." Mr. Campbell was directed to keep to the terms of his contract.

#### Doctor's Fatal Error.

Dr. W. G. Belcher, medical officer to Bandon Workhouse, has died through a dispensing-mistake committed by himself. It is reported that he was in the habit of taking a mixture of fluid magnesia and chloroform water, and that in making up a draught of the medicine he, whilst giving directions to the hospital-nurse, used carbolic acid instead. The bottles containing the fluid magnesia and carbolic acid stood side by side on the dispensary-shelves. Dr. Belcher had occupied the position of medical officer to Bandon Workhouse for thirty years, and was very popular with all classes.

#### Harbour-rates Increased.

With the view of obtaining funds for the improvement of the Carrickfergus harbour, whereby rock and ordinary salt at present manufactured at the local mines and works and shipped from Belfast will in future be exported locally, the Harbour Commissioners at Carrickfergus have agreed to increase the existing port dues and tonnage rates on ships and goods entering and leaving the harbour of that town to 6*d.* and 3*d.* per ton respectively.

#### Fire.

At Dublin, on December 29, a fire broke out at the Ballybough Vitriol Works, caused by the accidental ignition of a quantity of "shoddy." The damage done was slight.

#### Presentation.

A number of the friends of Mr. Robert Barklie met in the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, on January 2, and presented that gentleman with an illuminated address and his portrait in oils, as a recognition of the esteem in which he is held. Mr. Barklie, during the past year, received no fewer than seventeen appointments as analyst to various public bodies

in Ireland. Sir James Henderson, M.A., J.P., presided over the meeting, and the duties of secretary were undertaken by the Coroner for the city. The address to Mr. Barklie was read by Dr. Moran, head inspector of National Schools. In the speeches which followed the hope was expressed that Mr. Barklie would succeed in obtaining the appointment of analyst for the city of Belfast in room of the late Dr. Hodges.

## Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### Aërated-water Bottles.

At Linlithgow Sheriff Court on December 29, John McIntosh, aërated-water manufacturer, Bo'ness, was fined five guineas and five guineas costs for having committed a breach of interdict granted against him for using and filling aërated-water bottles belonging to Robert Barr, aërated-water manufacturer, Falkirk. McIntosh pleaded that he had great difficulty in strictly observing the decree of interdict. He could use the bottles of Edinburgh manufacturers and they his, but Barr collected all he could get of the Edinburgh bottles issued by defendant, and locked them up in the Bottle Exchange. The Sheriff sympathised with McIntosh, but said the order of the Court must be complied with.

#### Business Changes.

Mr. William Leslie, chemist and druggist, has acquired the business carried on for more than half-a-century by Dr. John Mather, in Haddington. The premises have been refitted and modernised.

Three new pharmacies have been opened in Aberdeen within the past few months. Mr. James D. Duncan's, at 213 Union Street, was the first. The position is one of the best on that fashionable thoroughfare, and part of the commodious premises is devoted to a post-office. Mr. Duncan was formerly senior assistant to Mr. James Sim, chemist, Bridge Street. The shop is handsomely and substantially fitted. At No. 118 Union Street, Mr. Robert Hunter, chemist and druggist (formerly with Messrs. Hunter & Ferguson, Perth), has opened a new pharmacy on modern lines. The fitting has been done in quite an exceptionally stylish manner. The double front runs to 20 feet, and the premises (formerly part of the Advocates' Library) extend back to 50 feet. The third new business is that of Mr. John Main, who has opened at 201 Rosemount Place. Mr. Main recently returned to this country from a three years' pharmaceutical sojourn in South Africa, the latter half in Johannesburg. He was formerly with Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., Edinburgh.

#### Administering Poisons.

At the Glasgow Justiciary Court on December 29, David McGuinness pleaded guilty to having administered to his wife a quantity of strychnia or other poison, and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

At the same Court on the same date, Alexander Murray was charged with having administered chloral to James Watson, of Eaglesham, whereby he was stupefied, and with stealing 10*s.* from him while he was under the influence of the drug. Watson explained that he got into conversation with the prisoner, and had a glass of beer with him, after which he did not feel very well. His pockets were rifled by the prisoner, who, on being taken to the police-station, dropped a phial, which was found to contain a solution of chloral. A paper containing chloral crystals was also found in his possession. Sir Henry Littlejohn stated that there were close upon 12 gr. of pure chloral in the powder, while the phial contained 29 gr. of chloral in solution. He was sorry to say that chloral was too easily obtained by the vulgar. It only required to be labelled. It was a perfect disgrace to society that so much facility existed for the possession of this most potent drug. He could send anyone for it, and a druggist would give it to the youngest child. There was so much competition in the druggist trade that they would sell it to anyone. Prisoner was found guilty and was sentenced to three years' penal servitude.



## South African News.

(From our Cape Correspondent.)

PETRUS JOHANNES VOS, a farmer in the Victoria West district, is patenting an ointment said to be effectual in quite a host of diseases too numerous to mention.

AN AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY by the name of Chamberlain is in disgrace in pro-Boer circles in South Africa. It does a big business in the country, but the Dutch have got into their heads that this Chamberlain is related to "Joe," and they would sooner die than take the stuff.

CAPE PHARMACY ACT.—The *Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette* of Tuesday, December 12, contained a proclamation by Sir Alfred Milner declaring that the Medical and Pharmacy Act Amendment Act, 1899, should come into force on December 15, 1899. Under the 15th section of the new Act power is given to the Governor to determine what edition of the British Pharmacopœia shall be used by chemists and druggists—who are by the section required to prepare their medicines according to such Pharmacopœia—and the Governor now proclaims that, on the joint advice of the Colonial Medical Council and Colonial Pharmacy Board, "the edition of the British Pharmacopœia issued in the year 1898 shall, on and after February 1, 1900, be used for the purpose, and that no alterations in the preparations mentioned therein shall be authorised for the present." The proclamation contains no reference to Section 16 of the Act, which refers to the labelling and sale of patent or proprietary medicines containing any scheduled poison. It will be remembered that a true and exact statement of the poison contained in any such article is required to be put upon the bottle, case, or other package containing it, and power is given to the Governor to proclaim a date, not less than six months after publication in the *Gazette*, on which the provision shall come into force.

MR. CHARLES EDWARD GARDNER (of Messrs. C. E. Gardner & Co., Port Elizabeth and Colesberg, Cape Colony) was born at Grahamstown in 1858, and served his apprenticeship with a Mr. E. W. Wells, of his native town, afterwards proceeding to London to pursue his studies at Dr. Muter's school. He passed the Minor examination in July, 1881. Finding that the English climate did not suit his health, he returned to the colony and started in business at Colesberg, later on at Kimberley, with a branch store at Newton (Kimberley). It is in the nature of colonials to travel; in fact, they never seem so happy as when going somewhere. Mr. Gardner

recognised the immense benefit to be derived from being near a port, so he went south to Port Elizabeth—the Liverpool of South Africa—where he met Mr. P. T. Dixon. Then the present wholesale business was established, and to-day the firm have every reason to be proud of the position they hold, and the respect which is extended to them by the trade. As the control of retail establishments situated a long distance from headquarters is not altogether satisfactory, the firm sold out their two up-country stores. The Colesberg branch is still



MR. CHARLES EDWARD GARDNER.

held by the firm, and, to use Mr. Gardner's own words—[uttered before the war.—ED.]—"no doubt there is a good deal of sentiment about this holding."

GRECIAN TRADE.—For the year 1898 medicines and chemicals were imported into Greece to the value of 323,173/. During the same period the exports of olive oil were valued at 146,352/., and of soap at 11,548/.

## Australasian News.

PHARMACY CLASSES.—In the report of the N.S.W. Minister of Public Instruction for 1898 the Pharmacy Department of the Technical College is reported as having had during the year 28 pharmacy students, 21 pharmaceutical chemistry, 19 dispensing, 15 materia medica, and 8 in veterinary pharmacy.

EUDESMOL.—Mr. R. T. Baker, F.L.S., curator of the Technological Museum, Sydney, has published a description of three new species of eucalyptus, one of which, *Eucalyptus camphora*, yields an oil which is the best source yet discovered of the stearoptene eudesmol. The average yield of oil is nearly 0.4 per cent., and this oil yields about 18 per cent. of eudesmol in a comparatively pure condition. If eudesmol should be found to be of medicinal value, or useful for other purposes, this oil would be the best source from which to obtain it.

VICTORIA POISONS BILL.—This Bill is still kept on the notice-paper of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, but there is not much chance of it being reached before the prorogation of Parliament. The following new clauses have been proposed with the object of not interfering with the sale of cyanide of potassium by photographic dealers:—

1. Any person who satisfies a police-magistrate that he is a *bona-fide* dealer in photographic materials, and is a fit and proper person to sell cyanide of potassium for photographic purposes, shall be entitled to receive from such police-magistrate a certificate that he is satisfied as aforesaid.

2. The said or any police-magistrate may at any time, on the application of any person authorised in that behalf by the Chief Secretary, by the Chief Commissioner of Police, or by the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, cancel such certificate after notice in writing to the holder thereof to show cause against such cancellation. Such notice shall be given either personally or in such other manner as a police-magistrate may direct.

Three other clauses of minor importance, regulating the action of these two clauses, follow.

NEW ZEALAND PHARMACY BILL.—This Bill was on October 18 considered in Committee in the Lower House, reported, and read a third time. The next day the Bill was read a second time in the Upper House. In moving the second reading the Hon. W. C. E. Walker explained that it was a Bill restricting the operation of the Act obtained last year to persons who were owners and managers of shops in New Zealand. As the Act passed it would apply to persons keeping shop in Australasia, and it was deemed advisable to restrict the Act to New Zealand. The Hon. Mr. Jones, in the discussion which followed, explained that, without any intention of doing it, the Act had conferred upon chemists in Australasia the privileges intended only to be given to New Zealand chemists, of being registered without examination. Some amendments were proposed in Committee with the object of registering chemists' assistants of three years' standing without examination, and of dispensing with the production of articles of apprenticeship previous to examination, but they were defeated. The Bill was then read a third time.

EARLY CLOSING.—In the South Australian Parliament the Attorney-General has moved an amendment in the interest of chemists as follows:—"Nor shall any chemist or druggist be liable to any penalty under this Act for any attention to any case of urgency." In the discussion in committee it was suggested, however, that if an information were laid against a chemist, he would have to prove that he supplied the medicine for a case of urgency. A similar clause in connection with public-houses had proved a ground for perjury, and that clause certainly added to the responsibilities of the pharmacist.—In New South Wales, Mr. R. T. Bellemeay headed a deputation to the Premier, urging that if the Early-closing Bill at present before the House were carried into law, all legitimate chemists would be driven out of business, and the trade of dispensing would be passed into the hands of doctors, quacks, and benefit-societies. This is the same gentleman who, when a movement was recently started with a view to securing greatly reduced hours for chemists, himself, with three or four others, stood out against the wishes of the majority, and so prevented any action being taken.

## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

**FRANCO-AMERICAN COMMERCE.**—The text of the commercial treaty concluded between France and the United States on July 24 last, the ratification of which is about to be demanded by the French Government, has been published. In exchange for the concession of the minimum tariff on a certain number of American products France obtains upon 135 categories of goods tariff reductions varying from 5 to 20 per cent. off the duties formerly applied under the Dingley Bill.

**CURE FOR ALCOHOLISM.**—A committee has been appointed by the Academy of Medicine to inquire into the alleged serum-cure for alcoholism referred to in last week's issue (page 1070). Regarding the investigations M. Broca, the chemist associated with Drs. Sappelier and Thébaud in the "discovery," says the committee will have to continue the experiments already made, and not report exclusively on proofs. The inventors discovered, he added, that their remedy had powerful qualities of regeneration due to an unknown substance called "Stimulithe," by Professor Mechnikoff. After three days' treatment a butcher, who drank on an average ten glasses of absinthe a day, would only drink two glasses, and two further injections cured him completely. M. Broca and his colleagues are convinced that the committee will soon be able to define the new serum clearly.

**THE NEW EMERITUS PROFESSOR.**—Professor Riche, who was recently succeeded at the Paris School of Pharmacy by Professor Moissan, was born at Gray (Hautes Saône) in 1829, and studied at the Faculty of Sciences and the Polytechnic School. He was appointed assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy in 1859, and professor of inorganic chemistry in 1873. His principal researches are on tungsten and its compounds. He has done some valuable work at the French Mint in compounding alloys, and is an active and useful member of the Paris Council of Hygiene. As a Customs expert and a jurymen at exhibitions, his sound judgment and wide knowledge rendered him unusually popular. His successor, M. Moissan, declares that it was in listening to his chemical lecture that he felt his first enthusiasm for the subject and resolved to become a chemist.

**THE 1900 BOTANY CONGRESS.**—The Paris School of Pharmacy is well to the fore in connection with this Congress. The three Secretaries are all recruited from the School, M. Perrot, the General Secretary of the Congress, being one of the new assistant professors there. He called round on me the other day, and we had a chat on English pharmacy, &c. He is an energetic and pleasant young man, and will probably be heard of later on. He is Secretary of the Mycological Society of France, and one of the editors of the new pharmacy journal. The Assistant Secretaries of the Congress are MM. Guérin and Lietz, who are heads of the micrographic and microbiologic laboratories at the School. On the committee are Professor Bourquelot, the well-known authority on mushrooms, Professor Gignard (botany professor at the School), and the venerable ex-director of the School, M. Chatin. The Committee offices are 272 Boulevard Raspail, Paris.

**A REVIEW OF SCIENCE.**—The public meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, held annually in December, was presided over by M. van Tieghem, the distinguished botanist. His address was a neatly-turned summary of current scientific progress, and Hertz's wireless telegraph, the improved means of producing and transporting electricity, the  $\alpha$  and the uranium rays, the electric furnace, liquid air, and solid hydrogen were all touched upon in a charming manner. The artificial production of pearls, the study of the botanic formation of coal, the study of the maladies and bacteria of plant-life, &c., were also passed in review. In conclusion, he alluded to the gaps made in the ranks by death during the year—Naudin, the botanist; Friedel, the chemist; the foreign associates, Frankland, of London, and Busen, of Heidelberg; and the corresponding members, Richards and Flower, of London, Wiedemann, of Leipzig. But the inte-

resting feature is the announcement of the award of the prizes—the "palmares," it is called. There are three big prizes of 400*l.* apiece—the La Caze chemistry award going to M. Engel, professor at the École Centrale. Mr. John Beard, of Edinburgh University, receives an honourable mention for an essay on "Embryology."

## Colonial and Foreign News.

**DUTY ON KOLA-NUTS.**—On and after January 1, 1900, the octroi duties at Dakar and Gorée will be the same as at St. Louis—viz., 160*f.* per 100 kilos.

**GONE UP ONE.**—Mr. R. J. Mackay, who for some years had a chemist's business in Colombo, but who left Ceylon some time ago, has obtained his M.D. degree at Edinburgh.

**HOMŒOPATHIST DEAD.**—It is reported from Berlin that Dr. Ludger Sulzer, one of the best-known homœopathic doctors in Germany, died on December 22, in his 53rd year.

**FULL NAME WANTED.**—An order came into force in Berlin on January 1, according to which all shopkeepers, including chemists, are to have their surname, at least one Christian name, clearly visible on the outside or entrance of their shops. It has been decreed likewise that the exhibition of the firm's shield in the window, although clearly seen from the outside, does not meet the requirements.

**PRESCRIPTION-PRICES.**—The new Prussian prescription-rates for 1900 are following the upward tendency of the market. The following are a few of them:—Cocain, hydrochl., 1 decigramme, 10 *pf.*; 1 gramme, 1.55*m.* (almost doubled); quinin, hydrochl., 1 gramme, 20 *pf.*; 10 grammes, 1.40*m.*; ext. hydrast. fluid, 10 *gr.*, 40 *pf.*; creosot., 10 *gr.*, 20 *pf.*; ol. cacas., 10 *gr.*, 15 *pf.*; ol. olivæ, 500 *gr.*, 1.40*m.*; rad. senegæ, 10 *gr.*, 20 *pf.*

**CARTAGENA IPECAC.**—The alleged fraudulent importation of Cartagena (Colombian) ipecacuanha into the United States, by way of the small ports of entry along the coast and the Canadian border, has been lately receiving the attention of a committee composed of some of the leading crude-drug importers of New York, in connection with the work of the Drug-trade Section of the Board of Trade and Transportation. The committee has already received from the principal appraiser of New York his co-operation in the investigation, and steps are being taken to exercise greater control over the smaller ports.

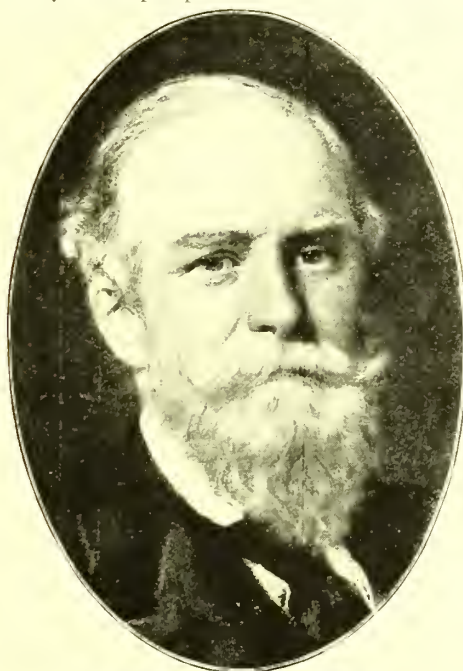
**THE CHARLES A. VOGELER COMPANY.**—On December 18 this company, whose headquarters are at Baltimore, and who are the manufacturers of St. Jacobs' oil and other proprietary articles, made a general assignment of their property for the benefit of their creditors, and Mr. Christian Devries and his wife, Minnie A. Devries, on the day following filed a deed of trust conveying all their real and personal property to the assignee to assist in the liquidation of the debts of the Vogeler Company. Mrs. Devries is the widow of the late Charles A. Vogeler. It is conjectured that the liabilities of the company are under \$200,000, and the assets about \$150,000. [We understand that the failure of this company is only temporary, and in no way affects the business which has its headquarters in London, and which is a perfectly distinct concern.—ED.]

**ITALIAN ITEMS.**—A Bill will shortly be presented to Parliament with reference to the potable-water question and to the introduction of the quinine-monopoly, in order to sell it cheap.—The Milan Custom-house officials have discovered that large quantities of saccharin are being smuggled into Italy from Bohemia, packed in small tins enclosed in a sack of powdered sugar. In Italy saccharin may only be used for medical purposes.—In the different Italian provinces the Government publishes a "maximum tax" for drugs, above which they may not be charged. As a great many pharmacists charge prescriptions at very low rates, a petition is being sent to all the pharmaceutical societies to introduce a uniform tax for the whole kingdom, and also to regulate the charges for the different manipulations.—The new Italian Pharmacopœia will contain a list of all the substances (and such poisons as are used in the arts) which may be sold by anyone.



## The New Year Honours.

**T**HE New Year's list of honours conferred by her Majesty is exceptionally short. Two baronets have been elevated to the peerage—Sir Stafford Northcote and Sir John Lubbock, F.R.S., M.P. By honouring the latter her Majesty has recognised the great benefits which Sir John has conferred upon the shopkeeping community by his legislative efforts, as well as his services to science and the public generally. The new peer is in his 66th year, and is the head of the banking firm Robarts, Lubbock & Co., Lombard Street, E.C. He is M.P. for the University of London. In his efforts to secure a weekly half-holiday for shopkeepers Sir John Lubbock has always



SIR JOHN LUBBOCK, F.R.S., M.P.

acknowledged the great assistance which he received from **THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST** in ascertaining the views of the retail drug-trade on the matter, and he paid a graceful compliment to Mr. A. C. Wootton on his recent retirement from the editorship, Mr. Wootton having had many conferences with Sir John when shop-hour measures were to the fore.

Several medical men are honoured, a knighthood being conferred upon Thomas Lauder Brunton, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., &c., the well-known therapist and West-end practitioner. Dr. Lauder Brunton is a Selkirkshire man, and received his medical education at the Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1866 with honours. He continued his studies at the University until he had obtained in succession B.Sc. in 1867, M.D. in 1868, and D.Sc. in 1870. He also studied in Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, and Leipzig. While in Edinburgh he gave promise of the remarkable powers of diagnosis and painstaking research which have since brought him to the front rank of medical specialists in London. While a resident physician in the Edinburgh Infirmary he discovered the utility of amyl nitrite in angina pectoris. Settling in London he took the M.R.C.P. in 1870, and was elected a Fellow in 1876. His best-known works are the "Handbook of Pharmacology, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics," and books on disorders of the digestive system. He was retained by the



THOMAS LAUDER BRUNTON, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.

1898 Pharmacopœia Committee as a therapeutic expert. Dr. Lauder Brunton is an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. He was a warm supporter of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, and when he could spare the time he was wont to give the members a lecture every session. He has succeeded to much of the practice of the late Sir Andrew Clark, and is the head of the Scotch community which has settled in the neighbourhood of Cavendish Square. His wife is a daughter of the late Ven. Edward A. Stopford, Archdeacon of Meath.

The Hon. J. A. Cockburn, M.D., Agent-General for South Australia, receives the K.C.M.G. He was born near Duns, but was educated in Highgate and King's College, and took M.D. London in 1874 with the gold medal. In the following year he went out to South Australia, where he successfully practised in Jamestown, of which he became Mayor. When he entered the House of Assembly in 1884 his advance was rapid, and he became Premier in 1889. He has recently been appointed Agent-General in London for the colony.

A C.M.G. has been conferred upon Dr. Patrick Manson, medical adviser to the Colonial Office. Dr. Manson's work in connection with malaria and tropical diseases generally has frequently been referred to in the *C. & D.* He is a graduate of Aberdeen University, as well as an F.R.C.P., and was formerly dean and lecturer on medicine at the College of Medicine for Chinese at Hong-Kong. Two other Aberdeen M.B.'s who receive the C.M.G. are Dr. John Pringle, of Kingston, Jamaica, and Dr. A. D. MacKinnon, Uganda. Dr. Wordsworth Poole, who also gets the decoration, is an M.B. of Cambridge, and the honour is conferred upon him for his services as Principal Medical Officer of the West African Frontier Force on the Niger.

A K.C.B. is conferred upon Captain William de Wiveleslie Abney, Director for Science of the Science and Art Department, the well-known authority on light and photography.

## Optical Notes.

By A CHEMIST-OPTICIAN.

### A PRACTICAL HINT.

**I** FORMERLY had considerable trouble with the tenderness and soreness caused by the pressure of pince-nez on the skin of the nose in the case of people first wearing glasses. I now recommend my customers to bathe the part with rectified spirit, and find that the discomfort soon disappears. If the spring of the pince-nez is weakened too much the glasses do not sit firm on the nose, and there is danger, in the case of cylinders, of getting the axis displaced. It has often surprised me to find how a little pressure causes soreness of some skins.

### A POWERFUL MAGNET.

The use of the magnet for removing fragments of steel from the eye is well known, and recently the Manhattan Eye Hospital have installed a magnet for that purpose so powerful that it will hold 250 lbs. of steel. The magnet has been tested for eye-work; a piece of steel in the eye it was used on, which was in the posterior chamber of the vitreous, was drawn out through the opening it made on entering. The magnet is 22 inches long and 14 inches in diameter, and requires a current of 15 amperes and 110 volts to saturate it.

### THE SIDEROSCOPE.

Professor Fuchs has given this name to an instrument he has devised for localising fragments of steel in the eyeball. The instrument consists of a magnetic needle furnished with a mirror, and deflections caused by the near presence of steel are registered upon a screen illuminated by reflected light. Vibration and steel objects in the room must be guarded against.

**THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION** of honey in Europe is estimated at 80,000 tons, representing a value of 55,000,000f. Germany produces 20,000 tons; Spain, 19,000; Austria-Hungary, 18,000; France, 10,000; Holland, 2,500; Belgium, 2,000; Greece, 1,400; Denmark and Russia, each 900 tons yearly.

## Marriages.

**DUNWOODY—MCKNIGHT.**—On December 27, at St. Mark's Church, Dundela, Belfast, by the Rev. H. McKnight, M.A., Rector of Kilkeel, brother of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Thomas Hamilton, M.A., Rector of Dundela, W. J. Dunwoody, M.P.S.I., eldest son of Mr. Thomas Dunwoody, Monaghan, to Mary Ka e (May), third daughter of the late Mr. Robert W. McKnight, Arva, co. Cavan.

**KENT—LLOYD.**—On December 20, at Holy Trinity Church, Winchester, by the Rev. F. M. Duncan, Charles Edwin Kent, chemist and druggist, Forton, Gosport, to Fanny Lloyd, of Winchester.

**LYONS—CARSON.**—On December 24, at Manchester, W. C. Lyons, dispenser Manchester Royal Infirmary, to Dolly Carson, Moss Side.

## Deaths.

**CLARK.**—At Dundee, on December 30, Mr. Alexander Brown Clark, late assistant with Mr. R. M. Lindsay, chemist, Dundee. Aged 21.

**COLMAN.**—On January 1, of influenza, Mr. Frederick Edward Colman, of North Park, Epsom Downs, managing director of J. & J. Colman (Limited), London and Norwich.

**PAGET.**—On December 30, 1899, at 5 Park Square, Regent's Park, N.W., Sir James Paget, Bart. Aged 85. It is so long since Sir James Paget retired from active practice that he was almost forgotten by those who once knew the high place he held in the medical world as a surgeon. Sir James was the son of a Great Yarmouth merchant, and studied at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, taking his M.R.C.S. in 1836. He remained at the hospital as demonstrator and lecturer some years, and in private practice his skill as an operator and knowledge of morbid anatomy equally brought him to the front rank as a consulting-surgeon. He ultimately became Serjeant-Surgeon to the Queen and Surgeon to the Prince of Wales, and there are few honours in the medical profession which were not conferred upon him. He received a baronetcy in 1871. In 1875 he was President of the College of Surgeons, and for eleven years, until 1895, acted as Vice-Chancellor of the London University. Sir James was noted for his oratorical power and courtly bearing.

**PALMER.**—At Grosvenor Crescent, Grimsby, on January 2, Alderman Enoch Palmer, J.P., chemist and druggist, Aged 68. The late Mr. Palmer, who was one of Grimsby's most valued citizens, succumbed, after a short illness, to an

attack of gout in the head followed by influenza and pneumonia. He had been a local public man for upwards of forty years, his first entry into public affairs being associated with the local Conservative party, of which he soon rose to be the head, taking charge of the various electoral campaigns. He subsequently became a member of the Clec-with-Welsby Local Board, and when the amalgamation of Clec with



Grimsby took place, in 1871, he entered the town council, and remained a member of that body until his death. He was made an alderman in 1891, and three years later was unanimously chosen mayor, an office to which he was re-elected in the following year. During his mayoralty the whole of

his benefactions were devoted to the poor, his motto being that the well-to-do needed no feasting—that the head of the town should look after its poorest. During the years of his mayoralty Grimsby shipping suffered from the effects of a fearful gale, leaving some sixty widows and nearly 200 orphans. Alderman Palmer at once opened a local relief-list, which met with such a glowing response that every sufferer was provided for for two years. While ex-mayor the Corporation presented him with a service of plate and his wife with jewellery, together with an illuminated address. In his corporate capacity he was deputy chairman of the Watch Committee, chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee, a member of the Bracebridge Asylum Committee, and a local Commissioner of Income-tax. He was president of the local branch of the Chemists' and Druggists' Association, of which more than half of the members have been his apprentices. In his business occupation he did a large trade in ships' medicine-chests. As an old townsman his opinions were eagerly sought after and accepted upon all public matters, and his loss to the community will be difficult to replace. The whole of the public buildings and principal places of business displayed emblems of mourning when the death was announced.

**SELLS.**—At Buxted, on December 21, Mr. Robert Sells, chemist and druggist. Aged 82. The late Mr. Sells, who carried on business in Tunbridge Wells for many years, was born in Jamaica, but was brought to England at the age of 3 years. He served his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Maddock, chemist and druggist, The Pantiles. He commenced business on his own account in 1860, and he retired nineteen years later after a most successful career. He was an active member of the Peace Society, and an ardent Liberal.

**THORNE.**—Mr. Henry Courtenay Thorne, chemist and druggist, Brighton, died on December 28, 1899, aged 38, from influenza and pneumonia, after a very brief illness. Mr. Thorne had been connected with Messrs. Headland & Co., chemists, of Brighton and Hove, for many years, and became a director when the business was converted into a limited liability company at the beginning of 1899. He was very highly esteemed amongst pharmacists in the town, and was a prominent member of the Brighton Association of Pharmacy.

**WORFOLK.**—On December 24, Mr. Francis Worfolk, chemist and druggist, late of Bolton. Aged 87.

## Business Changes.

Notices are inserted free in this section if properly authenticated.

**MR. J. LAWRENSON**, chemist and druggist, has vacated his pharmacy at Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

**MR. KEALL** has purchased the business of Mr. F. H. Williams at West Hill, Wandsworth, S.W.

**THE WM. S. MERRELL CHEMICAL COMPANY** have removed their London branch to 47 Wilson Street, Finsbury Square, E.C.

**MESSRS. P. PASQUET, SEN., AND P. PASQUET, JUN.,** have joined the staff of the Sharp Brothers Soap and Perfumery Company (Limited).

**MESSRS. CHARLES WIMBLE & Co.**, colonial, rice, and salt-petre brokers, 21 Mincing Lane, E.C., have admitted Mr. George Thomas Lachlan as partner.

**MR. JAMES HERBERT EVERETT EVANS**, son of Mr. John James Evans, has been admitted a partner of the firm of Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool.

**MESSRS. JAMES WATT & SON**, merchants and importers of white lead, glue, turpentine, &c., have removed their offices from 36 Moorgate Street to 101 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

**MESSRS. KIRKPATRICK, BARR & GUTHRIE**, 4 Cullum Street, E.C., have taken Mr. D. Stuart Paton into partnership. Mr. Paton has been with the firm for the last twenty years.

**MESSRS. E. SACHSSE & Co.**, essential-oil merchants, of Leipzig, inform us that Herr C. C. F. W. Ritzhaupt has retired from his position in the firm after nearly thirty years' activity.



MESSRS. JOHN PHILLIPS & SONS, sponge-merchants, York Road, City Road, E.C., have recently purchased further extensive premises in York Road in order to extend their bleaching and carding department.

MESSRS. BRUMMERSTAEDT & LÜDERS, 3 Cross Lane, St. Mary-at-Hill, E.C., have been appointed by Messrs. Balzer & Co., of Grünau, near Berlin, sole agents for the sale of their permanganate of potash in the United Kingdom and the colonies.

MESSRS. HIELBING & PASSMORE, analytical and consulting chemists, 63 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., have just completed a large new auxiliary laboratory, which, they inform us, is fitted with modern scientific apparatus for research and the investigation of technical processes. This will enable the firm to carry out experiments on a practical manufacturing scale when desirable.

MR. A. APLIN, chemist and druggist, has had his pharmacy opposite the Guildhall, Exeter, entirely refitted by Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson, Aldersgate Street, E.C. The mahogany woodwork is panelled with nearly two hundred squares of plate glass, and the premises throughout are lit by electricity. We note also that Mr. Aplin announces that for every article sold to the value of a shilling he will give a penny to the War Relief Fund.

## Advertising Ideas.

### THE KAY MIRROR.

A solid and attractive article has been issued by Messrs. Kay Brothers (Limited), Stockport, to advertise their linseed compound. It is a framed mirror for hanging up in the shop. It is in good taste and not of gimcrack material. The power of attraction which such an article has for young lady clients will not be gainsaid by any pharmacist of experience.

### ALMANACS.

"Kay's Almanac and Family Reference" contains a description of various simple ailments, and advice as to their treatment.

The "Family Almanac for 1900," of Mr. A. L. Doran, of Bray, besides containing the usual general information, has many historical and amusing features to commend it to the multitude. Mr. Bray has a poetical contribution of his own as a finale which has quite a classic ring, and a sketch-map of Bray, showing all the principal features of the town (prominent among them Doran's Pharmacy), is evidence of his skill as a cartographer.

In the almanac issued by Messrs. Forshaw & Snow of Bradford, Mr. T. Garrat Forshaw gives a brief history of pharmacy and medicine from 1800 to 1900. The calendar proper, instead of having "August 5, Sunday, eighth after Trinity" in the conventional manner, tells you that on that date you can buy "Nursery-aprons and sponge-bags" at the Infirmary Pharmacy. Better to buy these on Saturdays.

Mr. James Robertson, chemist, St. Boswells, sends us a nicely-printed almanac, containing much useful information and several nice advertisements of Mr. Robertson's specialities, prominence being given to the "Dryburgh Abbey Souvenir Bouquet." There are also enclosed a neat little booklet containing an admirable series of Robertson's stable adjuncts, and a slip headed "Important notice," which states that "on and after January 1, 1900, business will as far as possible be conducted on ready-money terms." A fragrant odour is lent to the whole by a packet of "Dryburgh Abbey Bouquet" sachet-powder.

The "West Highland Almanac," published for the thirteenth year in succession by Mr. Samuel Lawrence, chemist, Oban, has several unique features which give it an agreeable individuality. The outside cover—of a delicate salmon colour—is bordered with well-executed engravings of the alchemist of days gone by and the chemist of to-day on one side, and artistic groups of pharmaceutical appliances, such as pill-roller, mortar, spatula, balance, &c., on the other. The local information given seems to be of an unusually complete character, and throughout are interspersed many skillfully drawn-up advertisements of Mr. Lawrence's proprietaries.

## Personalities.

DR. WALTER H. INCE has resigned his appointment as Government chemist at Trinidad in consequence of indifferent health, and is now in London for a short holiday.

MR. THOMAS TYRER, F.I.C., F.C.S., has been appointed by the Council of the Society of Chemical Industry to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. E. C. C. Stanford.

MISS E. L. B. FORSTER, who is in charge of the ladies' department at the Westminster College of Pharmacy, is writing a series of articles to the *Nursing Record* on "How to Become a Dispenser."

MR. F. W. GAMBLE, pharmaceutical chemist, and President of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, has been appointed manager of Messrs. Allen & Hanburys' (Limited) West-end branch at 7 Vere Street, W.

MR. G. CLARIDGE DRUCE, M.A., pharmaceutical chemist Oxford, has again been unanimously elected Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the Oxford City Council, which is a committee of the whole house of sixty members, and which carries with it the chairmanship of the hospital.

Professor J. M. MUNYON, the millionaire proprietor of the Munyon's Remedies Company, has given two million dollars to found a home and college in Philadelphia for orphan girls. It is to be non-sectarian, and, in addition to his present gift, Professor Munyon has promised to endow the institution.

MR. JOHN PATTERSON, chemist and druggist, has sailed for South Africa to fulfil an engagement with Messrs. Lennon (Limited). Mr. Patterson, who is a native of Eccles parish, served his apprenticeship with Mr. W. Murray Maxton, of Kelso. He afterwards filled situations in Dundee, Edinburgh, and London.

MR. F. W. HARRIS, F.C.S., whose appointment we noted in our last issue to the post of Corporation chemist of Glasgow, previously held the position of chemist and analyst (under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act) to the Burnley County Council. He was a pupil of the late Dr. Morgan, F.I.C., of Swansea, and further prosecuted his studies at Karlsruhe for a period of three years.

MR. LABOUCHERE tells us in *Truth* this week that the New Year honour which gives him most satisfaction is the knighthood conferred on Dr. Lauder Brunton. "I do not mean to suggest," he adds, "that Dr. Brunton has been knighted because he recently helped to save the life of a humble journalist, but it is a pleasure to think that the result is a case of *post hoc* if not *propter hoc*."

WE give below portraits of the two new members of the Optical Committee of the Spectacle-makers' Company, whose election we notified last week. Mr. George Culver is a director of the firm of George Culver (Limited), Pentonville, and was admitted a liveryman of the Spectacle-makers'



MR. GEORGE CULVER.



MR. J. H. RAPHAEL.

Company in 1893. Mr. J. H. Raphael is the principal of the firm of Messrs. J. Raphael & Co., manufacturing opticians, 51 Clerkenwell Road, E.C., and besides being a liveryman of the Spectacle-makers' Company, is a member of the Council of the recently-formed Optical Society.

## War Notes.



BY THE QUEEN.

### A Proclamation.

VICTORIA R.

Whereas a state of war exists between Us and the South African Republic, and also between Us and the Orange Free State;

And whereas it is therefore expedient and necessary to warn all Our subjects of their duties and obligations towards Us, Our Crown and Government;

Now, therefore, We do hereby warn all Our subjects not to enlist or engage themselves in the military service of the Government of either of the said Republics, or in any way to aid, abet, or assist either of the said Republics in the prosecution of hostilities, and not to carry on any trade with, or supply any goods, wares, or merchandise to either of the said Republics, or to any person resident therein, or to supply any goods, ware, or merchandise to any person for transmission to either of the said Republics, or to any person resident therein, and not to carry any goods, wares, or merchandise destined for either of the said Republics, or for any person resident therein.

And We do hereby further warn all persons that whoever, in contravention of the law, shall commit any of the aforesaid acts will be liable to such penalty as the law provides.

Given at Our Court at Windsor, this Twenty-seventh day of December, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and in the Sixty-third Year of Our Reign.

*God Save the Queen.*

This is in accordance with the international law that all commercial intercourse between the two peoples is interdicted, the maxim being that there cannot be at the same time "a war for arms and a peace for commerce."

TWO SPALDING CHEMISTS.—Mr. H. Pye and Mr. C. Wass—have volunteered to go to the front.

TO PAY THE VOLUNTEERS.—Messrs. James Townsend & Son, label-printers, of Exeter and London, having on their staff from fifty to sixty Volunteers, have (should they be called up to serve under the colours) promised to keep their situations open for them, also to provide for their wives and families during their absence.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS AT THE FRONT.—Lance-Corporal J. W. Peet, a reservist in the 28th Company of the Army Service Corps, who is now at De Aar, was an assistant chemist with a well-known Manchester firm.—Mr. James Donaldson (Minor 1896), a Kirkealdy man, who was an assistant in Pretoria, is acting as a dispenser to Methuen's troops. He has escaped from Kimberly in some mysterious way.

NO CASUALTIES AMONGST CHEMISTS.—Up to the last mail from Cape Town there were no known casualties among chemists at the front. The brothers Wood, one of whom held an appointment in an English export house, are well as far as our correspondent can ascertain. They are at Mafeking under Colonel Baden-Powell. Their parents reside in the Dalston district.

NO DANCING THIS YEAR.—The committee appointed to make the arrangements for the ball to be held under the auspices of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association on January 24 had a meeting a few days ago, and resolved that owing to the anxiety caused by the state of affairs in South Africa, and the sufferings of so many of our fellow-countrymen, the ball should be abandoned.

"TOMMY ATKINS" IN THE DYEING-BUSINESS.—We all know that the soldiers at the front are wearing "khaki" so that they may not be easy targets for Boer bullets, but it is no use being the colour of your surroundings if you have a white horse. "Mr. Atkins" immediately set to and dyed his faithful steed to match his clothes. The *C. & D.* man at the Cape was permitted to see the process, and the astounding rate at which horses were dyed would make many a professional dyer blush with anxiety for fear of losing his trade when "Tommy" gets back.

OTHER NOTED SURGEONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.—The following surgeons are to proceed immediately to South

Africa:—Mr. Watson Cheyne, F.R.S., professor of surgery in King's College, London; Mr. G. L. Cheate, F.R.C.S., his assistant; and Mr. Kendal Franks, F.R.C.S.I., surgeon-in-ordinary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, who was for some time before the war resident at Johannesburg. Sir William Thomson, ex-President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, will sail on January 20 to take up an appointment as chief surgeon of a special hospital.

A CHEMISTS' ASSISTANT named Blizzard, in the employ of Messrs. Jones (Limited), at their Pretoria branch, recently arrived at Cape Town *via* Lourenço Marques. He states that he was granted a special permit to stay on account of the firm dispensing for the Boers, but that he was overheard to make some inappropriate remarks, the result being that he was hauled up before the Landdrost and despatched to the frontier under escort. He says all was well when he left, and that other drug-stores were then open, although those so fortunate were known to be very pro-Boer politically. Blizzard is now pharmacist on board No. 2 hospital-train on the western road of the Cape Government Railways, and wished to be reported "all well."—*Our Cape Correspondent.*

C.L.I.V.—We observe that Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co., 24 North Audley Street, W., have presented drugs, and Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney (Limited), Southwark, medicines, to the corps of Volunteers which is being organised by the Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Charles Umney, managing director of the latter firm, in a letter addressed to the Lord Mayor offers to supply "all the medicines which the Medical Staff connected with the corps may think necessary to forward to South Africa." Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney have, as mentioned by Mr. Umney in his letter, "supplied the whole of the British army during a period of three years, from 1894 to 1897, with medicines."—Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. also inform us that they are "supplying as a gift the entire medical equipment of the City of London Volunteers."

FURTHER TRADE DONATIONS.—Price's Patent Candle Company (Limited) are sending a large supply of candles and toilet-soaps to Natal for the use of the troops there.—Messrs. Lever Brothers (Limited) are presenting 5,000 tablets of "Lifebuoy Royal Disinfectant" soap.—Messrs. I. & M. Cohen, 53 and 54 Houndsditch, E., presented to the hospital-ship *Maine* a large case containing 1,000 medical sponges.—Messrs. Hayward-Tyler & Co., mineral-water engineers, Whitecross Street, E.C., presented to each of the hospital-ships *Princess Royal* and *Maine* an outfit of six 8-pint seltzogenes, with 100 charges for each seltzogene.—The chemical-works of Messrs. Joseph Crosfield & Sons (Limited), soap-manufacturers, Warrington, was thrown open to public inspection on December 28 and two following days. A charge of 1*d.* was made for admission, and the sum realised was given to the Lord Mayor's relief fund.—Our Cape correspondent writes:—"Amongst other recent 'patriotic contributions' to the military hospitals at the Cape are: Disinfectants, Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Company (Limited); eau de Cologne, Star Perfumery Company, of Cape Town; and 'Sanitine' disinfectant, Messrs. James Flower & Son, of Cape Town."—The proprietor of Beecham's pills has offered to send a box gratis and post free to any individual soldier now on active service in South Africa who applies for it.

MARTIAL LAW.—Mr. C. Martlew, chemist, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, has had an interesting experience recently. He is just now residing in Durban, and received a cable from his late assistant, Mr. Herald (qualified English chemist, Liverpool, who is now dispenser with the Boer forces near Ladysmith), that Herald and Dr. Shaw (also English, and with the Boers) were leaving the Boer prisoners (who had been taken at Elandslaagte) at Cape Town, and were returning to the Transvaal *via* Delagoa Bay. "Would Martlew call on them on the s.s. *Briton* in Durban Bay for a chat?" Martial law prevails throughout Natal, and Commander Scott, of H.M.S. *Terrible*, in the Bay, is Special Commandant of the town Durban. The military censor gave Scott a copy of Martlew's cable, also handed the cable to Martlew, and said nothing. Martlew went on board, chatted with his two friends for an hour, and then wanted to go ashore in the tender. Two naval officers touched him on the



shoulder, saying, "Come down into the guard-room and we will attend to you." There he went, and was kept all day and that night with a guard of bluejackets round him. Next day he was sent ashore under escort, and kept in a cell two days, no bail allowed. Then he was brought up before Commander Scott, who spoke to him very severely, and said had the inquiries which he had made not proved him to be a patriotic Britisher of irreproachable character he would have kept him in gaol till the end of the war. He was then allowed to go. Mr. Martlew feels very annoyed about this affair, and declines to speak of it. He is very popular amongst the members of the Pharmaceutical Society, Johannesburg, and was its energetic Secretary two years ago.—*Our Johannesburg Correspondent.*

AT MAFEKING on December 8 a shell from the Boer camp landed in the Market Place, killing a native and partially wrecking the pharmacy of Messrs. Lennons (Limited). Two army Staff officers were shortly afterwards inspecting the damage when a second projectile, bursting within a few yards, wrecked what was left of the shop, the officers and Mr. Davies (Messrs. Lennon's local manager) having



marvellous escapes. The latter gentleman (at one time with Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co., of High Holborn, W.C., and also Messrs. Glaisyer & Kemp, of Brighton) went out to the Cape in 1896, and was for a period in charge of Messrs. Lennons' Winberg branch. Subsequently he took charge of the Mafeking branch, the shop being a well-fitted, up-to-date South African pharmacy. It has been open for about fifteen months. When the photo (from which our sketch is made) was taken the business was known as B. G. Lennon & Co. This title, however, has since been changed to Lennons (Limited). We learn that Mrs. Davies was able to leave Mafeking before the investment of the town.

## Volunteer Army=compounders.

WE estimate that nearly 1,000 chemists' assistants, dispensers, and medical students applied for the vacancies in the Royal Army Medical Corps Compounder-staff, for temporary or volunteer service. A well-known pharmacist, who is a retired military officer, complains that the terms offered by the War Office are an insult to pharmacy—7s. 6d. a day having been given during the Crimea, and 12s. 6d. when the Indian Mutiny was on, for similar service. The protest comes too late. If the Pharmaceutical Council had looked into this matter three months ago, when we called attention to the unsatisfactory way in which the army authorities were seeking for dispensers, they might have secured recognition of the Minor certificate solely as well as better terms for the dispensers engaged.

The subjoined are selections from the experiences of registered men who have been appointed and sent to Aldershot. We understand that some are going to Netley for their preliminary training. Amongst those who are appointed are Mr. W. Douglas Armstrong, a New Zealand pharmacist, who came to London about two months ago to

see something of English pharmacy. Mr. W. H. Orrell of Bolton (Minor, 1897); Mr. Harold T. Young, Sefton Park, Liverpool (Minor, 1898); Mr. Agnew Nicholson, late of Edinburgh (Minor, 1899); Mr. Alex. Currie, Crumpsall; Mr. S. Proctor, Stretford, and Mr. E. Crawford, Manchester (Minor, 1898):—

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

It is quite a remarkable experience for us here (Aldershot). We arrived last night from — about midnight, and after a good sleep on a shakedown-bed were awakened about 6 o'clock in the morning by the sweet notes of the bagpipes. Then we started our adventures. The weather broke down and we were "bashed" about (that's Lancashire) until 9 o'clock, looking for a doctor to vaccinate us. Happily, that was done before breakfast-time. The meal went off with great *éclat*. Then we went off to get our togs. What a metamorphosis! You would have died of laughing. The individuality of the ubiquitous chemist was extinguished and we emerged from the stores as "Tom-mies," each with three pairs of trousers, one tunic, one fatigues-jacket, three pairs of socks, two shirts, five brushes, one razor, one button-stick, one cape, one overcoat, and one "housewife." The last-named is a very important item. It consists of a small wallet with a supply of needles and thread. Imagine poor compounders stitching shirt-buttons on. I look forward with high hopes of doctoring my unmentionables. Well, it is an experience, and we all seem to enjoy it very much. If any of your subscribers wants a good laugh, he should come down to Aldershot and see us "form fours," "mark time," "as you were," "halt!" It's a treat. (216 23.)



The engraving shows how the transformed knights of the pestle now look. In Africa they will wear khaki.

All the chemists that enlisted for the post of special compounders expected they would be treated as gentlemen, be sergeants in the army, attend sergeants' mess, &c., and generally enjoy themselves. These sanguine expectations were somewhat disappointed.

The first batch of us that arrived were all right so far as sergeants' mess was concerned, but as further additions began to come in, the mess was found to be too small and the stomachs of the compounders too large, so we were finally turned out, and are now messing in barracks the same as the ordinary soldiers.

To begin with, we have to get up at 6.30, rather a new experience for most of us, but unless we did so it would be impossible to appear on parade in time.

The first thing we do is to make up our beds, a very necessary thing, as they stretch right across the room and it is impossible to move conveniently until that is done. I call it a room, but it scarcely deserves the name. It is simply a structure with a floor and a few whitewashed walls.

Brushing our boots is the next operation. The boots are rather clumsy, but excellent for walking. I find them much more comfortable than the ordinary civilian boots and shoes, only it is a relief to get them off after last parade. Next comes shaving—under difficulties. We are served with razors, but they scarcely deserve the name. I believe they cost originally about 3s. 6d. a dozen. They are the kind made to sell. There are no looking-glasses in the rooms, yet everyone is expected to turn out with a face as smooth as a new-born babe's. We finally got hold of a looking-glass between twelve of us, but as it did not exceed a watch-glass in size we had to shave our faces by sections, first half of one cheek then the other half, and so on, until every hair has been finally removed. We had no orders to remove any skin, but most of us did so.

Next we had to go into a room about 20 yards farther along



to wash ourselves. There were a few basins scattered about, but the water was turned off, so that we had to wash in the small quantity in some of the basins. Soap could scarcely be had for love or money. However, we finally got fixed up and then came breakfast, which consists of a large bowl of tea and dry bread. I am glad to say we get as much bread as we like, so that, if our stomachs hold out, there is no fear of starving, and we can always buy anything in the food-line we require.

First parade at 8.50. Dispensers have special drill to qualify them for marching with the troops in South Africa. The drill-instructor says chemists make very bad recruits, for a time at least. I expect that is due to their scarcity of spare time, so that they cannot go into the Volunteer force.

Another parade at 10.50. Then an interval until about 12 o'clock when dinner comes, or, rather, we go for it. It consists of beef and potatoes, and is served out at the end of a long table. Sometimes we have a second course. I must say that everything is very well cooked.

Parade again at 1.50 for an hour, and then we are free for the day to do as we please. We have plenty of spare time, but as the buttons are to be polished, &c., that practically fills it up. We are free until 9.30, unless we care to turn up for another meal of dry bread and tea, which finishes our food-consumption for the day. At 9.30 we must be indoors to answer the roll-call, unless out on pass.

Beds are made down every night and "lights out" sounds at 10.15, when everyone must retire. Singing is strictly prohibited after that hour, although talking is not objected to.

A new contingent of compounders has just come in. They had rather a surprise, and I think they expected something better. Some of their remarks were very funny. One could not find the pillow, and he was told to feel behind his head and he would find something like a small square brick—that was the pillow. Another remark was passed about a small draught being felt, and met with the answer that it was a "blooming whirlwind." Another awakened in the morning and found he had kicked the mattress out below him, and was sleeping on the iron. He declared "it bumped." I quite believe it did.

Another lot have just come in. No beds for them! They were told to get some biscuits and make their beds on the floor. The sergeant thought they would make their beds first, and then they inquired about the biscuits. They were not aware that "biscuits" is the name given to military mattresses. Very funny, but not very nice if you have come a ten-hours' railway journey, and after searching all over Aldershot for your barracks, finally arrive at them about 12 P.M. with no chance of anything to eat until next morning. Some arrived in tile hats—I fancy they were the most surprised. I cannot help feeling sorry for them. Everything seemed so golden when our services were accepted.

I am enjoying it all right. I, for one, thought we should have to rough it, although scarcely so much. However, we are doing our duty to Queen and country, and that will always be some reward.

(216 9.)

We may add for the benefit of those who are sorry that they were not accepted, that all the vacancies are filled up at present. One recruiting-sergeant informs us that it nearly broke his heart to have to refuse so many fine-looking young fellows (Minor and Major men) who were eager to go to the front, and were not particular about the pay. Two of the volunteer compounders sailed by the *Goorkha* and *Bracmar Castle* on January 4. On the *Goorkha* were Messrs. Armstrong, McNulty, Hogg, and McDiarmid.

On Tuesday night, January 2, a meeting of Messrs. Magor's (Limited) assistants and managers was held at the Court Restaurant, Corporation Street, Birmingham, to make a presentation to one of their number, Mr. E. T. Wilson, who has volunteered for service in the Army Medical Department. The present consisted of a powerful field-glass, a silver-mounted pipe, and tobacco. The managing-director (Mr. C. Bayley) congratulated Mr. Wilson on the appointment, wished him God speed and a safe return. The remainder of the evening was interspersed with music and speeches, patriotic and other songs being contributed by members of the company. Mr. Wilson was manager of Messrs. Magor's branch, 40 Bristol Street, Birmingham, and was very popular in the neighbourhood.

FROM HULL.—"I renew, with feelings akin to enthusiasm, my subscription to your valuable paper. Its arrival causes Friday to assume a place of importance in the week to which it otherwise would have no claim" (237/19).

"A WOMAN SAID TO ME" (writes a leading novelist) "that she felt so ill she must send to the chemist for a 'porpoise plaster.'" I ventured to suggest she perhaps meant a 'porous' plaster, but the idea was not received with favour."

## Reminiscences of an Octogenarian Pharmacist.

By. R. GOODWIN MUMBRAY.

1800 A.D.

UP to this date the ancient town and port of Dover did not support a competent dispenser of medicine, the entire supply being under the control of one or two doctors and their satellites, the apothecaries; the only retailer of a few drugs was an old woman who also followed the ancient calling of midwifery. The practice adopted by the professionals was the Sangrado type—whatever treatment the doctor prescribed the apothecary implicitly followed—

*"Donat glisterium  
trahere ab  
brachio dextro  
sanguis uncies  
triginta."*

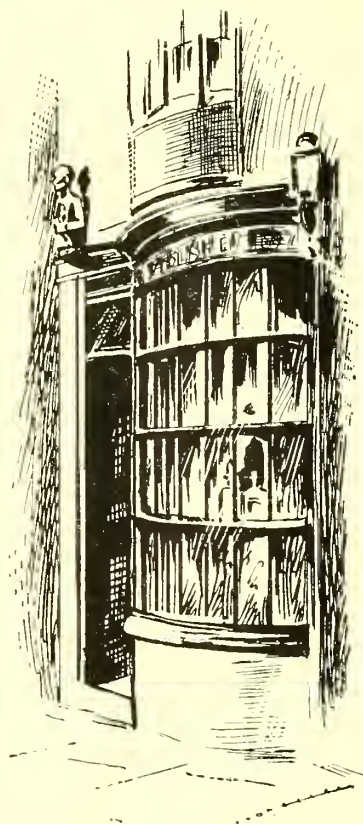
The patient thus became amenable to a long and lucrative course of treatment. Grim tales were current respecting the cupidity and recklessness to which sufferers were subjected: there is still extant a bill for one day's supply from the apothecary amounting to 59s., for "emulsions, gellies, blisters, glisters, bolusses, draughts, juleps, &c." It is difficult to imagine how any unfortunate patient could survive such dosing; probably not a few "died of the doctor," as the facetious Radcliffe suggests. However, this profitable arrangement was destined to be disturbed by the advent of a new-comer: a shop in one of the principal thoroughfares was opened. Brilliantly illuminated by Argand oil-lamps, which shed a radiance upon rows of bottles and jars, the window furnished with mysterious apparatus, alembics, and crucibles, and a number of quaint-looking vessels filled with variously-coloured liquids graced the window, thus producing a decidedly novel effect. Over the entrance appeared a finely-carved and gilded bust, bearing upon its pedestal the venerated name, "Galen."

The apothecaries naturally viewed the undertaking with distrust, and predicted a speedy failure. They were not awed by the appearance of two tablets of portentous import, inscribed—

PHYSICIANS'  
PRESCRIPTIONS  
ACCURATELY  
PREPARED.

GENUINE  
DRUGS  
AND  
CHEMICALS  
FROM  
APOTHECARY'S  
HALL.

On the opening-day numerous passers-by stayed to wonder at and admire the new shop. The miserable did





tallow-candles of neighbouring shops were eclipsed by the splendour which spread across the pavements. But no one entered. At length a customer ventured in. The bystanders surrounded him, curious to know what he had purchased. It was an ounce of salts—"purified Epsom"—neatly packed and labelled, and the penny received for the article was the sum total of the first day's receipts. Next day the return was  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ , but the third day recorded *nil*.

There was a full garrison quartered in the barracks on the heights. The colonel calling at the new shop was surprised and pleased to recognise the proprietor as the principal assistant from a West-End establishment, and mentioned the fact at mess. The patronage of such distinguished members of society soon became known amongst the gentry and wealthy families of the town and neighbourhood. The first to feel the effects of the innovation was the old woman, who closed the little shop and fell back on her original calling. The apothecaries next found a falling-off in their business, and the old-fashioned doctors missed the assistance of their coadjutors, and, being unused to writing prescriptions, could not compete with eminent London physicians, so they eventually retired into private life.

Thus was the historic business of Odden Hambrook founded, still carried on as Hambrook & Son; whilst the

classic bust of Galen presides as the Genius Locare over the most ancient pharmacy existing in the ancient town-port of Dover.

[We are indebted to Mr. John Barber Hambrook for the photograph of the shop from which the sketch has been drawn. The frontage has now been modernised. The bust of Galen remained in its place until 25 years ago. It was quite 200 years old. Mr. Mumbray remembers Mr. Hambrook telling him that it originally figured over the doorway of Messrs. Westwood &

Sons, wholesale druggists, Newgate Street—long since departed—and this old firm made Mr. Hambrook a present of it on his commencing business in 1800. The other sketch is of a very old flat show-bottle, which is now used for exhibiting homœopathic pills. It is believed to be as old as the century, and is unique as far as we are aware. It is 18 inches high, 12 inches wide, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches from back to front.—ED.]

The ordinary appliances now found in every pharmacy were in the early days of the craft unknown or unimagined. The introduction of the pill-machine was a great event. It was regarded as a masterpiece of invention. Previously the only method of dividing a pill mass was by means of a glazed tile with a printed scale upon it. Having dispensed a prescription of twenty-four pills, a young chemist was much discomfited by the entrance of a facetious old patient, who, opening the box, thus addressed him: "Pray, young gentleman, how do you wish me to take three pills—one large, one small, or one or three small pills?" On the introduction of the pill-machine there was much joy in the house: what was before a dreary toil was now a positive pleasure, and whoever was the inventor is entitled to the lasting gratitude of every old and young pharmacist living. But there seems some danger that the art of dispensing a nicely-finished box of pills will be lost. Who makes his own pills at this time of day? The enormous factories where pills are turned out by the ton, coated and polished by machinery which is perfection itself, is not an unmixed good, as the facilities thus offered do not tend to individual exertion—medical men avail themselves of so easy a method. One

practitioner informed me that he looks down the list, finding a formula that seems likely to suit, writes to the manufacturer, who forthwith despatches per post a supply properly directed. So for a trivial cost (this gentleman does a large practice) the expense of a dispenser is saved, as the doctor himself and his groom make up all liquid medicines. The absurdly low prices at which pills are produced encourage competition and open the door to grocers and shopkeepers of all grades. How this evil will end can scarcely be surmised.

In the former half of the century lint was produced by scraping old linen with a blunt knife. Old women eked out a livelihood by begging old sheets from which they cut the sounder parts. They worked industriously, bringing the product of the week's labour for sale. There was no attempt at symmetry, the pieces being of various sizes and shapes. The introduction of machine-made lint was a perfect revolution.

Another clumsy contrivance was the clyster armata: a pipe fitted to a small bladder was the usual method of exhibiting an enema. As this apparatus was often required in haste, we generally kept a few ready mounted—but what a bore if called up at night when unprepared! The piped bladder was superseded by the enema-pump—price about 21s.—frequently getting out of order. But Higginson triumphed over all difficulties.

Graduated measures were then of uncertain accuracy. We had in use for several years a cylindrical 16-oz., and only found by accident that it was 12 dr. deficient in capacity. The accuracy of measures now being under Government inspection is an important advantage, but the use of unstamped measures in surgeries is another instance of one-sided legislation.

But to return to the Dover pharmacy.

My personal acquaintance with the old shop was partly from hearing Mr. Hambrook's conversation (he was my uncle). My eldest brother was apprenticed to him. The military connection was kept up, and my brother had to call for orders and deliver the medicines at night. The grand shaft was the only access to the military quarters, and a dismal place it was. I was a very small boy then, and my brother was glad to have me sitting upon his shoulders. I used to spend a good time in the pharmacy, beguiled by the sayings and doings of "Old Waters"—a mariner, and then a sort of laboratory-man. Mr. J. B. Hambrook has now retired from business, and his son, Edward Odden Hambrook, is in charge.



MR. J. B. HAMBROOK.

**WOUND-DRESSING RESPONSIBILITIES.**—A case of some interest to retail druggists was decided in the New York Supreme Court recently. A man named Frederick Roth, after severely cutting his thumb, went to a drug-store in Eighth Avenue, and asked the clerk on duty to bandage it. The clerk did so, using a weak solution of carbolic acid to wash the wound. Roth asked for some of the acid, which was given him with the injunction to dilute it before use. Roth used the acid (presumably undiluted) with the result that it was necessary to amputate his thumb. Roth sued the druggists for \$10,000 damages, alleging that the clerk was responsible for the loss of the thumb, through ordering the acid used. The attorneys for the defendants held that it was not the duty of the plaintiff to go to a drug-store to have a wound dressed, and further that, even if the clerk did make a mistake or was incompetent, the clerk was personally liable, and not his employers, as it was not within the scope of drug-clerks to dress wounds. The Judge also took this view of the case, and dismissed the complaint.

## My Own Specialities.

EVERY chemist has his own special cough-mixture, but my experience, while assistant for chemists in various towns and also with the stores, has taught me that it is wisdom to keep two, or even three, different kinds. For instance, have a cough-mixture with your own name, "Blank's cough-mixture" (or balsam), and a different class of mixture with some name as the "Pink cough-mixture," a cheap line about 8*d.* per bottle; or, again, a mixture with another name on, as "Dr. Smith's bronchial syrup." By displaying three such kinds on the counter, and using discretion in bringing them before customers' notice, I have often sold a bottle when, if I had only one class of cough-mixture, I should not have sold it. I have had customers who would have anything but that bearing my own name, and have satisfied them with Dr. Smith's.

I have a recipe which was given me as that of a well-known patent medicine, and many times I have persuaded customers to try it with satisfactory results. It pays well to put it up in 3*ij.* bottles, nicely labelled. (Dose, a teaspoonful for adults only), and it sells at 10½*d.* The recipe is as follows:—

Ae. sulph. dil.	...	...	...	3iss.
Spt. vini rect....	...	...	...	3ij.
Liq. morph. acet.	...	...	...	3j.
Oxymel ipecac.	...	...	...	3ij.
Spt. chlorof.	...	...	...	3j.
Syr. tolut.	...	...	...	3v.
Syr. rhœad. ad	...	...	...	3xx.

M.S.A.

Another good mixture, which can be put up in 3*viiij.* bottles and labelled "Cough-cure—for shortness of breath and chest complaints," is sold at 1*s.* 6*d.* It is as follows:—

Chlorodyn.	...	...	...	3ij.
Spt. amm. co....	...	...	...	3ij.
Vin. ipecac.	...	...	...	3iv.
Glycerin.	...	...	...	3j.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	...	3viiij.

M.

3ss, every three hours.

The chest to be rubbed and the back between the shoulders with lin. opii ammon. ("Pharmaceutical Formulas.") I give a 1-oz. bottle of this, and charge 2*s.* 6*d.* for the mixture and liniment, and get good results always.

Pains in the back are very prevalent just now, and I find it pay to keep a mixture ready put up, such as—

Pot. bicarb.	...	...	...	3iv.
Tr. hyoscyam.	...	...	...	3ij.
Inf. scoparii ad	...	...	...	3viiij.

M.

3ss, om. 3 hor, sd.

This mixture (price 1*s.* 6*d.*), with a belladonna plaster to apply to the region of the pain, I find does a wonderful amount of good.

A special mixture should be put up for influenza and called "Influenza-mixture," and if shown on the counter a bottle will frequently be bought. The following is good:—

Tr. quin. ammon.	...	...	...	3j.
Tr. camph. co	...	...	...	3ss.
Tr. scilla	...	...	...	3ij.
Syr. limonis	...	...	...	3ij.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	...	3viiij.

M.

3ss, every three hours.

The price of this should be 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.*

Another ailment which is astir in certain districts is ulcerated mouth. The best treatment for this I have found to be pot. chlor. pellets, one in the mouth continuously, and the following mixture:—

Ammon. carb.	...	...	...	3ij.
Spt. chlorof.	...	...	...	3j.
Tr. card. co.	...	...	...	3ij.
Inf. gent. ad	...	...	...	3viiij.

M.

3ss, om. 4 hor, sd.

For tie and neuralgia I put up half-a-dozen tie-pills in a box for 3*d.* The pills are according to this formula:—

Quin. sulph.	...	...	...	...	gr. j.
Pulv. capsici	...	...	...	...	gr. ½
Lupulin.	...	...	...	...	gr. ⅓
Ext. gent. ad	...	...	...	...	gr. ij

Ut ft. pil.

One every three hours.

By sending round a few handbills, done with a duplicator, the pills sell well. The price appears to be an attraction. I have sold dozens of boxes by this means, and once sold they are recommended; that is my experience. They have this advantage, too, that they need not be labelled "Poison." They are an excellent tonic. Vix. (185/51.)

## Publishing a List.

Being a little bit more from "Six and Sixpence."

I'VE published a list. Not one of those leather-covered, gilt-edged, and highly-illustrated lists, but a plain, suitable-to-my-trade, paper-covered one, full of local information, guide to health, herbal preparations, drug, patent, and sundry price-lists.

Perhaps you and many of your readers will say, "There's nothing wonderful in that." But there is to me. It's my first-born, and was ushered into my world with fear and trembling. The result has been—but I'm hurrying on too fast. First let me write of the cost of the result.

I sent circulars to the various firms for quotation for a 64-page drug price-list—specimen enclosed—covers to be printed in two colours, 5,000 issue, proofs of each page to be supplied. All prices, ranging from 15*l.* to 30*l.*, were sent in, and eventually I decided on one firm whose price was 19*l.*, and whose name was a guarantee of good work.

That was the first step. Then, with scissors and paste, I collected a bit from this list and a bit from that, until all the patents, drugs, herbs, and sundries were complete. My pen then began its labour, and soon supplied introductory address and page after page of my own proprietaries. Then came writing to the various firms for page advertisements, payable in stock. Some politely declined, some offered to deduct the cost of page (30*s.*) from a 5*l.* order, and others accepted my terms.

Result was, I obtained 14*l.* 10*s.* worth of promises, and with that I was fain to be content. Total cost to me, 4*l.* 10*s.*

At last the lists came, and I secured two men to thoroughly book the district. They took six days to do this, and their charge was 1*l.* 16*s.*, which I considered very reasonable. Total costs of lists to me, 6*l.* 6*s.*

Every house in the district was supplied with one, and I had not long to wait for the result. From far and near customers came—some with the lists for fear they might forget the name of the mixture or potion that they had set their mind on, and some with slips, whilst some came to spy the land, and remained to pay.

Six pounds a week increase has been the result up to now, and that has been maintained for nineteen weeks, so that my 6*s.* 6*d.* has grown into 23*l.* a week, and looks like keeping so.

I do all the work myself, so that I am busy night and day. My prescribing trade (apart from proprietaries) is now averaging 11*l.* a month. Most chemists send their lists out at the commencement of the year, and the consequence is there is a glut. To avoid this was my reason for publishing mine later in the year, and I have found it best. To any struggling chemists, whose businesses are dragging, or, owing to keen competition, are declining, I urgently press on them "Publish a List." (216/73.)

A CHANCE FOR RESEARCH.—On account of heavy sentences having been pronounced upon German butchers for adding preservative salts to prepared meats, *Die Allgemeine Fleischer Zeitung* has offered a prize of 3,000*m.* for the best preparation containing the same colouring and preservative qualities as sulphites without their injurious properties.



## Students' Corner.

IN the early days of this section of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST all the subjects of the pharmaceutical examinations were included in it. Even French on one occasion was included with Latin in a translation exercise which Mr. Joseph Ince set, and for which he awarded a valuable prize to the successful student—Mr. Frederick W. Fletcher. That was thirty years ago, and we recall the fact as we now propose to return to the original scheme in the hope that the weekly issue will give opportunities for development and variety. Our object is to assist students of pharmacy in home studies, to help them individually in difficulties which are of special interest, and to deal generally with examination and scholastic matters of pharmaceutical interest.

This will not interfere with the analytical competitions so ably conducted by Mr. R. J. Moss, F.I.C., F.C.S., for more than a quarter of a century, and which he will continue to conduct, although as Secretary of the Royal Society of Dublin he is now a much busier man than he was some years ago. The results of the analytical competitions will be printed in the last issue of each month.

As an appropriate beginning to the new series we print

### AN ACCOUNT OF THE MINOR,

by a candidate who had to try three times before he succeeded in satisfying the Board of Examiners for England and Wales that he was a fit and proper person to be registered as a chemist and druggist. The description which he writes refers to the third occasion—October, 1899:—

**Practical Dispensing** was my first subject, and the following is the paper given to me:—

Phosphori	...	...	...	grs. $\frac{3}{30}$
Strychninae	...	...	...	grs. $\frac{1}{30}$
M. ft. pil. j.	Mitte xij.			
Lin. pot. iod. c. sapone.		Make $\frac{1}{2}$ B.P. quantity.		
Hyd. ox. flav....	...	...	...	grs. iij.
Ol. theobrom.	...	...	...	q.s.
M. ft. suppos.	Mitte vj.			
Bismuth. carb.	...	...	...	3iv.
Pulv. tragacanth.	...	...	...	5j.
Spts. chloroformi	...	...	...	3ij.
Tr. nuc. vom....	...	...	...	5j.
Aq. ad....	...	...	...	3vj.
M. ft. mist.				
Ext. nuc. vom.	...	...	...	grs. $\frac{1}{4}$
Ferri et quin. cit.	...	...	...	grs. 3
M. ft. pil.	Mitte xxiv.	Varnish.		

Spread a lead plaster 6 × 4 inches.

I began the suppositories first, but had to be very careful not to pour the mass into the moulds until it was just pourable, otherwise the mercuric oxide would have settled at the apex. I then started the liniment, and was told to leave the finished article in the mortar. The mixture, the nux vom. pills, and the plaster turned out well. The examiner asked me how much phosphorus I had used for the dozen pills, and also how much strychnine. He wanted to see my calculations, and how I had got at my quantities.

**Practical Chemistry.**—In the afternoon I was taken in practical chemistry. I set to work at my volumetric, which was as follows:—

(a) To estimate, by means of the given "thio" solution, the amount of iodine contained in the sample.

(b) To estimate, by means of the same "thio" solution, the percentage of available chlorine in the given solution of chlorinated soda.

Not being able to find the starch solution, I asked the examiner for a little. He told me to make it. The iodine I found to be nearly pure. The solution of chlorinated soda was nearly B.P. strength. I next took the pill-box of my "known salt," quinine, and found it to be mixed with sugar. Having written an account of my analysis, I found I had over an hour to spare, and spent it in checking my volumetric work, repeating the titrations.

I received my notice for the oral examination a few days afterwards, and in the meantime I occupied the time with a revision of my work, and in writing answers to previous papers by candidates which had appeared in the *C. & D.* This I found excellent practice, and as I had a collection of them, I found the time to pass very pleasantly and without the feeling that I was cramming too much.

**Latin and Prescription-reading** were the first subject I was sent to on the eventful day. I was given an English prescription for a mixture to write in full Latin with directions, the examiner meanwhile examining another candidate orally. I then had to read a couple of badly-written prescriptions, detect unusual doses, and give doses of nux vomica, strychnine, opium, morphine, ext. opii, ext. belladonnae, and a few others.

**Materia Medica.**—Here Mr. Wright, the examiner, handed me a map to point out where the following drugs came from:—Aloes, senega, ipecac., scammony, jalap, aconite, galls, nutmegs, rhubarb, strophanthus, tolu, and about a dozen more. Seeing that he looked rather pleased, I gained more confidence. He showed me gualacum resin to recognise, asked me the test for it, and how to apply it. I had to explain how the resin is obtained, and give the official preparations. Then he showed me catechu, and asked what it was, how prepared, and how I would detect starch and chalk in it? How would I apply these tests? Why are gambier in cubes and cutch so rough-looking? Strophanthus-seeds came next, and, after telling him the test for strophanthus with sulphuric acid, he required the official preparations, and then asked me to recognise aconite-leaves, colchicum-seeds, anise, Calabar bean, quince, grindelia, cardamom, nux-vomica seeds, areca-nut, scammony and jalap resins. What were the distinctions between scammony and jalap resins? What is scammony, and how obtained?

**Chemistry.**—In the laboratory I found Professor Thomson waiting. His first question was, "What do you understand by atmospheric pressure?" Then followed these in quick succession: "How is it measured? How would you prepare a barometer roughly for me if I were to give you a piece of glass tubing, say, 40 inches long? Why would the mercury fall to about 30 inches? What other kinds of barometer do you know besides the cistern-barometer? How does the aneroid work? Is it a good one or not?" Next he took me on the sp. grs. of a solid, a liquid, and of a powder insoluble in water. Asked me how would I take the sp. gr. of mercury? "Suppose," said he, "we have a little chemistry. What do you mean by oxidation and reduction? Mention a few common oxidising and reducing agents." I had several equations to write concerning these. He next asked how metallic arsenium is made. Amongst other questions were:—Preparation of potassium iodide, potassium chlorate, potassium chromate, hyd. ammon. chlor., hyd. ox. flav., CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>. He finished off by questioning me a little on the benzene series, requiring the formulæ for benzene, toluene, phenol, chlor. toluene, benzyl chloride, and how acetanilide is prepared, with equations.

**Botany** was my next subject, and Professor Harvey Gibson began by asking me to explain what I could see in the section under the microscope. When I told him I could see bordered pits, tracheides, and medullary rays, he asked what the section was from. I thought it was a transverse section of a pine-stem, and said so. I had also to recognise under the microscope a section of a monocot. root, a dicot. root, and a monocot. stem, and was asked how I recognised the root from the stem. He gave me a flower, which I had to describe and point out the different parts. He asked me what an enzyme is, to mention a few, and how they act on substances. He gave me a severe cross-questioning on assimilation, respiration, and transpiration. What changes would be noticeable in the plant during these stages? Formation of starch; where the plant stores; and how it is able to use it as food-material for the young embryo? Stem-structure, vessels, tissue-system, pollination, and fertilisation I had also to tell him about.

**Pharmacy.**—Here Mr. Tanner asked me to write down the whole of Poison Schedule, Parts I. and II., and then took me through the Arsenic Act. He asked me, "What is the law relating to a poison in a prescription?" Being accustomed to copy all prescriptions, whether containing poison or not, it did not strike me, until he told me that "they must be copied in a prescription-book," was the answer required. I then had to explain the preparation and estimation of spt. æth. nit., why copper is used in preparing it, and can it be prepared without? Then I had to explain the difference between ebullition and evaporation, fractional and destructive distillation, lixiviation, levigation, and elutriation. After giving the doses and strengths of a number of preparations, I finished my second day's examination.

The seconds dragged slowly on as I sat on the finking-form for it was scarcely two minutes (although it seemed an hour) when the President called me, and with a cheerful smile said, "You have done very well; I hope you will soon be up for the Major."

Before concluding, I should like to offer a word of advice to candidates. Go well prepared for the examination, and do not heed the reports of those who speak of the harsh treatment of the

examiners. This was my third appearance, and on each occasion I received the same courtesy and fair treatment from each examiner.

\* \* \* \*

The EDINBURGH EXAMINATION differs in certain particulars from the London one. We hope to show next week wherein the differences lie. Students should read the foregoing description carefully, and particularly note the prescriptions. We have printed these exactly as written by the successful candidate. We do not suppose that the examiner wrote them exactly as given here, for "grs." in a Latin prescription is an error abhorred by Latinists. Students will find it to be good practice to write out these prescriptions in Latin without abbreviation, and to compound the prescriptions. For further practice in dispensing we commend regular perusal of the dispensing notes in our correspondence section.

\* \* \* \*

THIS YEAR will see several important changes in the Pharmaceutical examinations in Great Britain. The First or preliminary examination will be discontinued by the Pharmaceutical Society in July, and *after August* they require candidates for registration as students to produce certificates showing that they have passed an examination in English grammar and composition, Latin, algebra, arithmetic, Euclid, and one foreign language (French or German). The fee of 2*l.* 2*s.* will still require to be paid. Candidates entering for the Minor or Modified examination after August will have to pay a fee of 10*l.* 10*s.*, and if they fail 3*l.* 3*s.* for each examination thereafter. A committee of the Pharmaceutical Council is at present considering how the by-laws should be altered to suit the new state of things which will arise.

\* \* \* \*

The EXAMINATIONS now being held in London and Edinburgh are very heavy, and have not sufficiently far advanced to enable us to report fully. In Edinburgh the results so far in the Minor are that about a third of the five-score candidates have been rejected in the practical work. The new examiner (Mr. J. F. Tocher) appears to please the candidates. In London the Minor practical chemistry has been a separation of two bases and two acids, and one volumetric.

The following are the papers given in the

#### MAJOR EXAMINATION.

December 27.—Practical chemistry, from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
December 28.—Physics, 10 to 1; chemistry, 2 to 5. December 29.—Botany, 11 to 1 and (prac.) 3.30 to 5; materia medica, 10 to 11 and (prac.) 2 to 3.30:—

#### Practical Chemistry.

1. Make a qualitative analysis of the mixture "M."
2. Prepare a specimen of iodoform from the iodine (5 grammes) supplied; weigh your preparation, state its weight, and leave it on your bench. [The quantity and purity of the sample will be considered in awarding marks for this exercise.]
3. Determine the percentage of nitrogen in the substance "N" by the soda-lime method.

#### Physics.

[Only six questions to be attempted.]

1. Describe the necessary apparatus and give an account of the procedure to be followed in determining the vapour density of a substance by Hofmann's method. State clearly the way in which the results of vapour-density determinations are employed in fixing the molecular weights of substances.
2. Explain the difference between "sensible" heat and "latent" heat. What are the general effects of heating a body? Describe these effects (a) on heating water from 3° C. to 5° C., (b) when a bar of iron is heated in air, (c) when a gas is heated in a cylinder with a movable piston.
3. Describe carefully the construction of any form of secondary battery, and state the chemical changes which take place within the cells during charging and discharging.
4. Define "specific heat." A piece of platinum of specific heat 0.032 is heated to 1000° C. and dropped into eight times its weight of water at 12° C.; what will be the final temperature?
5. Instance three illustrative cases of the chemical influences of light, and discuss the chemistry of the changes that occur in each of the cases you select.
6. Calculate the focal distance of a crown-glass meniscus lens, the radius of curvature of the concave face being 45 mm., and that of the convex face 50 mm., and the index of refraction being 1.5.
7. Explain the construction of the electric furnace, and describe

the carrying out in actual practice of any manufacturing process in which it is employed.

8. Explain with the aid of a diagram the refraction of a beam of white light by a glass prism. Show what observations would have to be made in order to deduce the refractive index of the glass for a particular coloured ray.

#### Chemistry.

Six questions only are to be attempted, and of these at least two must be taken from Part II.]

#### Part I.

1. Explain and illustrate the sense in which the word *equivalent* is employed in modern chemistry. In what other chemical senses has this word also been employed?
2. Write in order the symbols of the elements which form the first two small periods in the natural system, and discuss the consequences of this arrangement.
3. What are the natural sources from which the various lithium-compounds are derived? Describe how lithium carbonate can be prepared in quantity from lithium-compounds which occur in nature.
4. How would you prepare specimens of the following substances, common materials, with the exception of the salts named, being placed at your disposal? Potassium iodate, cuprous chloride, sodium hydrogen sulphite, dipotassium hydrogen phosphate.
5. What products are obtained upon the decomposition of each of the following substances by the aid of heat:—Potassium ferrocyanide, potassium bichromate, ammonium bichromate, hydrogen sodium ammonium phosphate (microcosmic salt), arsenic acid, oxalic acid?
6. Describe two methods for the separation of arsenic from antimony, using equations to express all the important chemical changes which occur.

#### Part II.

7. State the various steps that it would be necessary to take in order to prepare synthetically a specimen of oxalic acid.
8. Write an account of the properties and principal reactions of ethylamine, and describe three methods by which this substance could be obtained.
9. What is uric acid? How does it differ from an ordinary carboxylic acid, and why does it form salts with basic hydroxides?
10. A hydrocarbon derived from benzene has the molecular formula  $C_8H_{10}$ . Give the possible constitutional formulæ of such a compound, and indicate a method by which its constitution might be determined.

#### Botany.

1. Describe fully the phenomenon of transpiration in plants, and point out the various conditions which govern it.
2. What is latex? Give some account of its occurrence in plants.
3. Write a detailed account of the morphological differences between gymnospermæ and angiospermæ.

#### Practical.

1. Make preparations to demonstrate the microscopic structure of the leaf provided (A).
2. What is B? Give a drawing of its external features and indicate by references on your drawing the value of its various parts. [Fertile head of horsetail.—Ed.]
3. Refer the plants C and D to their natural orders, giving reasons for your references. [Liliaceæ and Primulaceæ.—Ed.]

#### Materia Medica.

By what chemical or physical characteristics could you identify the following substances:—Almond oil, cod-liver oil, codeine, podophyllum resin, salicin, thymol, jalapin, and benzoic acid? State what you know about the mode of preparation of each.

#### Practical.

1. Prepare a transverse section of the calumba-root. Draw and describe your section, pointing out anything characteristic observed.
2. Report on the two samples of powdered calumba-root.

---

HE SEES THE ADS.—"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of ——" blood-purifiers.—*Printer's Ink*.

DON'T LIKE PEPPERMINT.—According to Mikhailoff (*Pharmaz. Journ.*) mice have been found to have a strong aversion to the odour of peppermint, so that a pledget of cotton saturated with the oil placed near their haunts, especially in the holes made by these rodents, suffices to drive them from the premises.



## Observations and Reflections.

BY XRAYSER.

THE NEW YEAR GREETINGS which filled the first seven-teen pages of last week's *C. & D.* were a striking feature of the number. I have no commission to respond on behalf of the trade and of students, but I think I am safe in saying that we all appreciate the kind wishes offered, and reciprocate the sentiments expressed in the same spirit as that in which they were presented, which had, I presume, a trace of the *do ut des* about them. In old times, before the days of printed price-lists or trade-reports, there was, I fancy, more chumminess between the wholesale houses and their retail customers than exists now. Sometimes a barrel of oysters at Christmas to those who had paid their accounts within the year helped to cement the friendship. We know now that this was an immoral means of cultivating business; besides, oysters have since gone out of the range of the drug-trade. Perhaps those old-world amenities are incompatible with modern methods of dealing, but it is the retailers, if either, who have loosened the links. Comparing price-lists, setting one house to quote against the other, and inspecting every parcel received minutely, with the object of finding something to complain about and return, are not the old methods which won the oysters. But we retailers, on our side, have some little reason to complain. Wholesale firms have been too ready to stock and supply anybody and everybody who takes a new shop, and pretty often they smart for it. But meanwhile to attract custom the new man sells his goods at less than a living profit. This has been the worst form of competition we have had to meet. We must all look out for the best sources of supply nowadays, but we may as well on both sides be as considerate of each other's interests as circumstances will permit.\*

THE VALENTINE TRADE-NAME.—The delicate points of law involved in the class of actions instituted for the purpose of restraining persons from using their rightful names in business are always attractive to lawyers. A short but interesting review of the recent litigation in respect to the name of Valentine in connection with meat-juice appeared in the *Law Times* of December 23, 1899. The novelty in this case, it is pointed out, was the sale of his name by the defendant to a company, but this does not seem to have made any difference to the principles of law applicable to such cases. These, as deduced by the *Law Times* from the judgment in this action, read in association with many preceding ones, is that—

A plaintiff, in order to obtain exclusive protection for the user of the name he bears in connection with the name of the article which he makes, must either establish a reputation on the market by which those two names are identified in the minds of the public (in which case fraudulent intent will be presumed against the defendant, who is to be taken as having adopted the best means to secure the end which *ex hypothesi* he has secured), or else such plaintiff must establish such special circumstances of fraud, whether evinced or intended, as will induce the Court to intervene by way of injunction.

\* [We are pleased that Xraysers calls attention to this matter, and it may be useful for future reference to record the fact that the following are the firms who, during the past few weeks, have conveyed the Season's Greetings to the trade through the *C. & D.*:—Messrs. Allen & Hamburys (Limited); W. Butcher & Son; Edward Cook & Co. (Limited); A. H. Cox & Co.; Davies, Gibbins & Co.; Evans, Sons & Co.; D. & W. Gibbs; J. H. Haywood (Nottingham); C. J. Hewlett & Son; Idris & Co. (Limited); The Leeds College of Pharmacy; The Liverpool College of Pharmacy; The Manchester College of Pharmacy; The Metropolitan College of Pharmacy; The Northern College of Pharmacy; Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co.; F. Schutze & Co.; Sharp Brothers Soap and Perfumery Company (Limited); Spratts' Patent (Limited); Westminster College of Pharmacy.—ED.]

This seems to be putting the position a little too definitely. No judge has laid it down so exactly that if the name of a maker is identified in the mind of the public with the name of the article he makes, fraudulent intent will be presumed against anyone of the same name who makes a similar article. Evidence of fraudulent intent in every case has had to be furnished; it is not presumed.

A NEW OLD PHARMACY.—"Optimist's" letter, comparing the modern "bright, well-dressed, attractive" chemist's windows, "filled with everyday seasonable side-lines such as the public require," "the whole establishment well lighted, brighter, and more open," with the dingy old shop with "windows ill-dressed and neglected, conspicuously displaying the coloured carboys and mystic specie-jars," the whole badly lighted and with a private appearance, reminds me of a long-cherished, but never-to-be-realised ambition to open a pharmacy somewhat of the latter character in some fashionable and frequented thoroughfare of a large city. I would adopt the bow-window, the small panes of glass, the small, upright carboys with alchemical symbols on them of old times, and everything about the window and the shop should have an old-world appearance. No silver-tongued traveller should ever tempt me to display a gilt letter on the outside of my window, or a Parma violet decoration inside, or admit a recessed-labelled bottle on my shelves. I am not sure whether I would sell perfumery, coated pills, compressed tablets, and such-like concessions to a Sybarite age at all; if I did, it would be with a protest. I wonder whether such an idea cleverly carried out would have a tendency to bring back the "exceedingly high profits" of which "Optimist" speaks. At least, it would attract attention.

DALTON AND PLAYFAIR.—In the "Memoirs and Correspondence of Lyon Playfair," by Sir Wemyss Reid, lately published, a curious story is told of Dalton from the manuscript of Playfair himself. Playfair was in 1842 Honorary Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution of Manchester, and he relates that Dalton was a frequent visitor to his lectures. He was then a venerable man with grey hair, and a face resembling that of Newton, a likeness of which the old man was proud. He always came to the lectures and left them leaning on the arm of his old friend, Peter Clare, a Quaker like himself. Dalton one day sent for Playfair to come to his house, and told him he wished to present him with his works in return for his (Playfair's) own. The young man (he was then 24 years of age) said he would value a presentation-copy of Dalton's works above all price, but that his own were few and not worth having as an exchange. Dalton thereupon insisted on an appraisal of them, and the exchange was made, Playfair handing over the difference in price, amounting to a little over twenty shillings. He came to believe later that when this occurred Dalton's mind was to some extent failing. Soon after came the annual meeting of the Philosophical Society for the election of President. Dalton was as a matter of course always chosen. His own vote had, however, in past years invariably been given for Peter Clare. This time the one dissentient vote found in the urn was for the doorkeeper!

NOT THE CHEESE VARIETY.—"I have an awful pain in my back," said an old lady to her doctor. "Probably you have rheumatism," responded the doctor. "Mebbe it is, doctor, but Sister Mary thinks I've got the limburger."

UNDER TREATMENT.—"What acid do we get from iodine?" asked the medical professor. "We get a—an—usually get idiotic acid," yawned the student. "Have you been taking some?" quietly asked the professor.—*Medical News.*

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## Editorial Comments.

### Pharmacists and the Pharmacopœia.

MR. CHARLES UMNEY sends us a well-timed protest against some remarks made by Professor Nestor Tirard regarding the association of pharmacists with physicians in the revision of the British Pharmacopœia. It is, perhaps, open to question whether Professor Tirard's remarks need cause alarm. He was appointed medical secretary to the last Pharmacopœia Committee, when there was a revolt amongst the younger generation against the part that pharmacists were taking in the revision, but we believe he has no authority to speak either for the General Medical Council or the Pharmacopœia Committee. His present position in the matter is that of reporter to the Pharmacopœia Committee on advances in pharmacology and therapeutics bearing on the Pharmacopœia: he has no power to settle questions of general principle. The nature of Professor Tirard's lectures does not give promise that he approaches the subject with full knowledge of the incidence of the Pharmacopœia. Mr. Umney refers to the passages in the last lecture which he considers to threaten the interests of pharmacy. We quote these passages more fully:—

The Pharmacopœias of various dates have had different characteristic names assigned to them, such as a physician's, or a student's, or a teacher's Pharmacopœia. The present volume was called a "wholesale druggist's pharmacopœia" at a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Conference at Belfast, and it was even complained that another Irish grievance had arisen—that the Irish pharmacists had not been consulted, that the Irish had had no opportunity of expressing their views. As a matter of fact the Pharmacopœia Committee included two representatives from Ireland—Dr. Atthill and Professor Tichborne. It is true, however, that the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain rendered invaluable assistance at every stage of the work, and therefore the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland may have had some grounds for feeling hurt.

The work of a committee, especially with a book like the Pharmacopœia, is to discount any tendency to render the volume either a druggist's, a student's, or a physician's Pharmacopœia. There is always the possibility that in the advice received one or other of these elements may predominate. The endeavour of the committee is to smooth away these differences and to produce a work which will not satisfy everybody, because that is proverbially impossible, but will be equally fair to all, and should thus satisfy the majority.



One word more as to why the compilation of the Pharmacopœia is in the hands of medical men. . . . If we consider the way in which trade interests are affected by the Pharmacopœia, if we consider that the volume deals with things bought and sold, it is impossible not to realise the risks of trade competition, of trade influence, and the constant danger of introducing a standard which might create a monopoly. I would ask you whether, with this in view, it is not better that the compilation should be in the hands of those whose motives cannot be assailed, that the final responsibility should rest with those whose interests are not at stake?

Mr. Umney very properly condemns the spirit which has dictated these objectionable references to trade influence and the assumption that the General Medical Council, or those members of it who are entrusted with the revision of the Pharmacopœia, are men of higher honour than representative pharmacists. Professor Tirard overlooks the fact that the General Medical Council has never pretended that the British Pharmacopœia is anything else than "a uniform standard and guide, whereby the nature and composition of substances to be used in medicine may be ascertained and determined"—in other words the Pharmacopœia is a physician's prescription-book, and if its standards were strictly confined to substances prescribed by physicians pharmacists would have no claim to share in the revision of the work. But in these latter days it has been deliberately, and with the authority of the General Medical Council, extended to prejudice the business of chemists and druggists. The drug-trade has agreed that the Pharmacopœia standards are convenient to adopt for retail as well as dispensing purposes, for the general desire of the trade is to maintain a high state of purity in regard to all medicines supplied to the public; but it is as well to remember that our interests in this matter appear not to have been overlooked by the Legislature, for immediately after Section LIV. of the Medical Act (1858), which authorises the British Pharmacopœia, there occurs the following section:—

Nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prejudice or in any way to affect the lawful occupation, trade, or business of chemists and druggists and dentists, or the rights, privileges, or employment of duly licensed apothecaries in Ireland, so far as the same extend to selling, compounding, or dispensing medicines.

In the British Pharmacopœia the General Medical Council has an instrument which has prejudiced the business of chemists and druggists, owing to popular names being attached to articles previously used in medicine, and while this has been done with the apparent approval of representative pharmacists, the fact remains that the original conception of the British Pharmacopœia has been widened so as to make it a standard and guide for trade-purposes.\* Thus a new position is created which entitles pharmacists to an equal share with physicians and surgeons in the revision of the work. Mr. Umney makes certain proposals towards this end which we commend to the careful consideration of the trade, and we would add that the powers of the General Medical Council are statutory—the Council must publish the British Pharmacopœia. Pharmacists have no desire to take that power from the Council, for there is nothing in the Medical Acts to prevent the Council recognising such a scheme as Mr. Umney proposes, but if the Council endorse Professor Tirard's view the Pharmaceutical Societies will need to go back to their position of 1882-83 and ask Parliament to give them equal rights with medical men in regard to the British Pharmacopœia.

\* Since this was written we have received the report of the pulv. rici co. case at West Ham, in which a chemist cleverly convinced a magistrate that the B.P. is not a trade standard. This is not the first case of the kind, and we may anticipate that the P.A.T.A. Defence Fund will utilise this line of defence whenever possible.—Ed.

## Scientific Imaginings.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SEDGWICK, late of the Royal Engineers, has a vivid imagination, and instead of applying it to such a purpose as the invention of a kingdom of Ruritania or something similar, he employs it in figuring out the processes whereby matter, from atoms to solar systems, was constructed. No quest can be more fascinating. "Our facts," says Buckle, "have outstripped our knowledge, and are now encumbering its march." Colonel Sedgwick opens his latest treatise, "The Advance of Knowledge" (George Allen, 156 Charing Cross, London), with this appropriate quotation. We quite agree that no one is wanted so much in physical and chemical science at the present day as a genius who would sort and explain our vast accumulation of facts for us, as Lavoisier and Dalton did for the observations of a century ago. Pending the arrival of such an one, we gladly welcome any intelligent guesser, and at present we dare not credit Colonel Sedgwick with a more glorious designation.

It is fair to him to add, however, that he is no mere visionary. He has studied science closely; he has made himself acquainted with the ideas of the greatest thinkers of our times; his guesses go far beyond the range justified by our facts, but they are not actually opposed to them; and he expresses his views with clearness and force. We had the opportunity some three or four years ago of briefly expounding the Colonel's ingenious and attractive theory of valency ("Chipped Atoms," *C. & D.*, July 25, 1896). He assumed that there were, to begin with, a few kinds of typical atoms of varying weights, neutral as to qualities and incapable of combining with other atoms to form molecules because they were all spherical like billiard-balls. But he conceived a slice cut off one of these spherical atoms, leaving a flat surface to which another atom could be attached. The atom thus once chipped could only take on one other atom; this was therefore a monovalent atom. A second chipping and a second flat surface would make it divalent, a third trivalent, and a fourth tetravalent. Since he had first published his theory, argon had been discovered with an atomic weight of 40, and this to some extent fitted into his theory. But Ramsay's neon, discovered since, has provided a still better source of certain metalloid atoms, and supports Colonel Sedgwick's theory thus:—

Neon is an element without valency; it cannot be combined with any other atom. Therefore it may be assumed to be spherical. Its atomic weight is estimated at 20. Suppose a first chipping off neon, and we get fluorine, 19 (better if it could be proved to be 18), a monovalent atom. A second chipping yields oxygen, 16, divalent; the third chipping nitrogen, 14, trivalent; the fourth chipping carbon, 12, tetravalent. Naturally after each chipping the atom becomes lighter. But what about the metal elements which increase in weight as they add to their flat sides or valency? This difficulty Colonel Sedgwick disposes of easily. The piece chipped off the metalloid atom he assumes has been transferred to another spherical atom and there fixed with its flat, surface outwards. In this way he gets from the neon element, 20, sodium, monovalent, 23; magnesium, divalent, 24; aluminium, trivalent, 27; and an undiscovered element, tetravalent, 29. Argon may similarly be chosen as the spherical atom, which starts a second group thus:—

Argon about 40.					
Metalloids.			Metals.		
Chlorine	...	35½	Potassium	...	39
Sulphur	...	32	Calcium	...	40
Phosphorus	...	31	Scandium	...	44
Silicon	...	28	Titanium	...	48

Obviously this is not quite in order; either pure argon must be less than 40 or potassium and calcium may be alloys with

some other at present undiscovered metallic element. Anyway, this is near enough for his theory.

But this is only the preliminary to Colonel Sedgwick's speculation. He has a supplementary theory which he particularly develops in his new work. He does not trouble himself about the creation of the original inert atoms, nor about the methods by which they were so accurately chipped. But he sets forth in considerable detail the means by which chipped atoms are brought into contact with other chipped atoms and firmly united by their plane surfaces into molecules. One molecule being accounted for, there is clearly no difficulty about extending the theory to a solar system. To put it briefly, Colonel Sedgwick imagines a subtle kind of ether atoms, which, adopting a term from Leibnitz, he terms monads. These monads are capable of combining with each other and forming streams, pools, oceans. But they are capable of far more than that. He endows each monad with what Herbert Spencer calls "the primordial implication of consciousness." And he goes further still: "They must be conscious of the presence of atoms, and must have a will or desire of some kind to draw them together." As a justification of this apparently wild conception, the author reminds us of the amoeboid swarms, perhaps the lowest form of life of which we know anything. The amoeba, a minute single cell of naked slime, without limbs or structure, is yet able to extend itself, to change its shape, and to throw out thread-like processes from itself, apparently in search of food. Suppose the monad capable of similar action, but suppose it free from all enmeshment of matter, with activities surpassing those of the electric current. Suppose myriads of hosts of these monads exercising their activities together, and you get a stream which seizes the inert atoms, whirls them with inconceivable speed, and, by methods of sure selection which even Colonel Sedgwick does not venture to imagine, brings together those whose union is necessary, fixing atom to atom by their flat surfaces and holding them tightly in molecules by a film of itself, just as a film of water will hold together two flat surfaces of glass.

This might seem to be a sufficient proportion of imagination to furnish a single book with. Ours reels as we try to follow the author. But it by no means exhausts Colonel Sedgwick's. He finishes off his sketch of the scheme of creation by introducing the views of many great scientists on the apparent antagonism which is obvious in nature, and he explains this by hypotheses which space will only allow us to allude to. He believes in two sets of monads, one with evil, the other with beneficent, aims. The first seek to destroy, to disintegrate, to reduce us again to chaos; the others are constructing, arranging, completing. We are glad to be in a position to state that the good monads are winning all along the line. A good many æons ago the forces of disorder had possession, but the monads in their service are being pushed aside and are apparently making for some distant parts of space beyond the universe of our ken; and the author very properly concludes his treatise with an exhortation to all of us to range ourselves on the side of the good monads—that is to say, on the side of law and order.

## Canada and her Customers.

"THE Statistical Year-book of Canada for 1898," compiled by Mr. George Johnson, F.S.S., is a stupendous mass of figures to wade through. But when the task is over one feels admiration for the author's patience and appreciation of the facts which he presents. The book throws interesting light on the growth of the Dominion's trade. It shows that the country has exported since the confederation—that is to say, from June 30, 1838, to June 30, 1898—products to the value

of \$2,916,319,168. These products have come from the farm, the mine, the fisheries, the forest, the workshop, and the factory; and the best buyer of them during these thirty years has been the Mother Country. We have taken more than one-half of the whole, or \$1,260,565,563 worth. The United States is the next best customer with \$955,000,000 worth, or 25 per cent. less than we bought. The British West Indies come third with purchases amounting to \$59,945,541. Newfoundland took \$48,807,362; France, \$12,190,654; Germany, \$9,089,194; and all other countries, \$118,640,647.

Great Britain began in 1868 by taking about \$18,000,000 of Canadian products; by 1872 she had got beyond \$25,000,000, after which year our purchases from Canada increased steadily till in 1898 they were over \$93,000,000. The United States has shown no such activity in buying from Canada. In 1838 the purchases of that country from the Dominion amounted to over \$25,000,000. By 1872 they had increased to nearly \$33,000,000; by 1882 to \$46,000,000. That is the highest figure ever reached, and since then United States purchases have steadily decreased, until in 1898 they were \$40,000,000. During the thirty years Great Britain's purchases from Canada have increased five times what they were in 1868. In the same period the United States' purchases have increased only about two-thirds what they were in the first year of the confederation. Great Britain, which purchased in 1838 \$6,000,000 less than the United States, bought in 1898 \$53,000,000 more than the United States.

From figures respecting the imports we find that Canada, in the year ending June 30, 1898, bought goods of the declared value of \$130,698,006 from all countries, against \$111,294,021 in 1897. Of these \$74,625,088 worth were dutiable and \$55,072,918 free. Great Britain supplied \$32,500,917, United States \$78,705,590, and all other countries \$19,491,499.

The following table shows the amounts of articles connected with our own trade which were imported from Great Britain and the United States in 1897 and 1898:—

	Great Britain		United States	
	Value 1897	Value 1898	Value 1897	Value 1898
<b>Dutiable Goods</b>				
Antiseptic surgical dressings	\$3,711	\$4,738	\$16,589	\$18,931
Drugs, dyes, chemicals, and medicines ...	229,542	309,127	667,388	756,172
Honey ...	8	30	2,771	5,554
Malt extract ...	1,158	329	6,344	6,398
Milk, condensed ...	1,095	1,827	47,255	54,883
Optical instruments ...	14,751	16,880	101,758	143,948
Paints and colours ...	210,234	202,793	184,659	243,805
Soap of all kinds ...	106,345	120,550	131,120	141,586
Spices ...	88,191	84,193	55,822	95,397
Turpentine, oil ...	16	9,173	153,465	202,027
Varnishes ...	24,910	23,550	35,547	50,495
<b>Free Goods</b>				
Aniline and coal-tar dyes ...	15,377	18,454	102,831	118,962
Borax, powder and crystals	47,126	57,287	3,470	1,751
Brimstone ...	54,776	167,807	19,469	35,713
Chloride of lime ...	39,368	47,050	7,106	6,257
Extract of logwood, &c. ...	70,673	80,085	54,337	89,078
Gums, all kinds ...	12,313	11,947	154,429	193,439
Soda (nitrate, ash, caustic)	195,066	190,733	100,210	145,358
All other drugs, &c. ...	180,818	169,201	449,646	498,013
Oils, cocoa-nut and palm ...	9,352	13,039	42,185	48,811

It will be noticed that among dutiable goods there is no single article the import of which is in our favour, although the figures regarding soaps, paints and colours, and spices



are evidence of development. We seem lamentably behind in the export of "drugs, dyes, chemicals, and medicines," which, although it has increased, is not in the same proportion as that of the United States. Among free goods we excel in brimstone, chloride of lime, soda (nitrate, ash, and caustic), and borax.

## Common or Garden Poison-sellers.

WITH a perverseness which would be amusing did it not deal with a serious matter, the *Fruitgrower, Fruiterer, Florist, and Market Gardener* (for a copy of which we appear to be indebted to the editor) comments upon the recent decision under the Pharmacy Act by the Lord Mayor of London which has stopped the sale of insecticides containing scheduled poisons by traders connected with the department which our contemporary covers. The *F., F., F., and M. G.* is incited to this task by a correspondent, and editor and correspondent alike bring forward once more the arguments which were used as to monopoly before the Legislature, in 1868, decided that restriction should be put upon the sale of poisons. Our contemporary also makes the mistake of assuming that the Pharmaceutical Society is endeavouring to obtain a monopoly of the sale of what are termed "poisonous or potent insecticides." This assumption is due to ignorance of the fact that the Pharmacy Act, which regulates the sale of poisons, was not sought for by chemists or by the Pharmaceutical Society, but was demanded by the public, and the Government of 1838, feeling the need for a measure of public protection, had this poison Act passed, after long and careful deliberation, as an amendment to the Pharmacy Act, and placed the administration of the Act in the hands of the Pharmaceutical Society. So far from utilising the Act as a monopoly—that is, in defence of those who have met the statutory demands by educating and qualifying themselves as the Act requires—the Pharmaceutical Society has been rather remiss in enforcing it, for fear that unqualified traders should consider that they were using it to create a monopoly. Had the Society acted promptly in regard to the sale of the nicotine fumigator the unqualified traders would never have been deluded into the supposition that they were entitled to sell the article—which seems to be the burden of their plaint. Mr. Cross, the member for Camlachie, used all our contemporary's arguments with members of Parliament two years ago, when the Pharmacy Bill was before the House of Commons, with the view of defeating the measure; and the temper of the House was pretty well shown when matters came to a point, for it swept aside the whole of Mr. Cross's allegations in regard to the so-called pharmaceutical monopoly, maintaining that the safety of the public required far more stringent regulations regarding the sale of poisons than the Pharmaceutical Society appeared to enforce. That has since been in a measure remedied. We hope that the Pharmaceutical Council will keep a stiff back in regard to the sale of agricultural poisons, and seek, if need be, the assistance of the Board of Agriculture in making the requirements of the law better known to farmers and others, who treat poisons in much the same way as they do mangel-wurzel and common salt. It is, of course, no part of the Society's duties, nor the intention of the Pharmacy Act, to interfere with the use of poisons, but the Act does mean to entrust the sale of poisons to individuals whose knowledge is such that they observe due caution in respect to them, and so impress some measure of the gravity of the matter upon the purchasers. The gardeners' paper wishes to have the old state of things—the indiscriminate sale—

restored. If that suggestion is allowed to grow, it may seriously threaten the public safety. Moreover, it must be said, registered chemists have interests in this matter. They have met the law's expensive requirements as to education and examination, for the one legal purpose only—viz., that they may keep open shop for the sale of poisons—and we submit that it is the duty of the Pharmaceutical Society to see that none other than these persons shall so keep open shop. Seedsmen and agricultural merchants are not such persons, and they should be told quite plainly that, if they want to sell poisons, they must be licensed as the law requires. This would be no hardship if whisky were in question: why should it be with death-carriers like arsenic and nicotine?

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

To try to make the evening meetings more attractive and practical, and blow company-pharmacy!—Wm. M.—.

To offer Bloomsbury Square the hand of fellowship once more, and try to get something solid done on the company question.—R. J. D.—.

To break in [that] Welsh colt who terrifies the team.—M. C.—.

To get the G.M.C. to institute a research scheme in connection with the B.P.—John A.—.

To find another smart qualified man to put on the directorate.—J. B.—.

To ask Mr. B.— if he is now in need of protection.—W. S. G.-J.—.

To put a little more sugar in as a set-off to the thin profit.—Mother S.—.

To make this year's Conference a record in pharmaceutical accomplishment.—E. M. H.—.

To pack a year's research and a score of speakers into an eight-hours' day.—Two Hon. Secs.

Not to take them to the Empire, nor in barges up the river.—John F. H.—.

To ask Mr. Chamberlain to kill the Lord Chancellor—or his clause.—Charles T.—.

Never to do it again.—A Volunteer Compounder.

## RETIREMENT OF MR. DOWNES.

General regret will be felt by all who know Mr. R. J. Downes, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, that his health has compelled him to retire from that position. He has never had good health since he took the chair, yet by his energy he has left the Society in a stronger position than he found it, and leaves the relations of the Society to the whole drug-trade of Ireland much improved. We may mention that in a New Year's address from his pen, which is printed in our Irish Supplement this month, Mr. Downes deals with the company question in an able way. We shall be glad to send a copy of this Supplement to any in Great Britain who are interested and who send us an addressed postal wrapper.

## SPRUCE BEER.

We are indebted to a provincial correspondent for a copy of a letter received from the Board of Inland Revenue, in which they state that they do not require a licence to be obtained for the sale of spruce beer; and they have in this case instructed the local supervisor to refund the licence duty paid by our correspondent in respect to the sale of spruce beer. The letter was dated Somerset House, December 30, 1899. This is a point of importance to many in the drug trade, because in 48 & 49 Vict. c. 51, ss. 2 & 4, beer is stated to include ale and porter, spruce beer and black beer, and any other description of beer, although by later Acts the term does not extend to liquids containing less than 2 per cent. of proof spirit. Hitherto, the custom of the trade in regard to a licence for spruce beer has not been uniform, some taking out the beer licence and others not.

**POISONS IN SCOTLAND.**

Sir Henry Littlejohn, the well-known medical adviser for the Crown in Scotland, has made a serious charge against Glasgow druggists which we hope they will refute with promptitude. He says there is so much competition amongst them that they will sell chloral to anyone. Sir Henry did not say whether by "druggists" he meant registered chemists (who are in a minority in Glasgow) or the doctors who keep open shop. But whoever it be, Sir Henry, in his official position, is exactly the man who can influence Government authorities to assist the Pharmaceutical Society to enforce the Pharmacy Act in Glasgow. All their attempts in that direction, hitherto, have been signally discouraged by the Sheriffs.

**THE CAPE PHARMACY ACT.**

When we wrote last week that the new Cape Pharmacy Act had not been ratified by Sir Alfred Milner, intelligence was on the way from our Cape correspondent to the effect that it came into force on December 15, 1899. The ratification comes at a time when the Act is practically inapplicable to a large portion of the colony, the northern part now being under martial law. The notable points in regard to the proclamation which home wholesale druggists, manufacturers, and agents should observe are, first, that on and after February 1 the British Pharmacopœia, 1898, is to be regarded as the standard by which chemists in the colony must compound, and therefore sell, medicines mentioned therein; and, second, that Sir Alfred Milner has not seen his way to ratify the provision in regard to poisonous patent and proprietary medicines. We believe that the clause has not been hung up indefinitely, but that owing to the present troubled state of the colony it has been considered advisable to reserve consideration of the enforcement of the provision until matters are quieter.

**THE NEW ADULTERATION ACT.**

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, which came into force on Monday, has given rise to some false notions in the drug-trade, and it may be useful to call attention to points upon which questions have been put to us. The fact that the only official notice taken of the Act this week is by the Board of Agriculture is sufficient indication of the new interest imported into this department. Hitherto the Local Government Board has been the sole administrative authority under the Acts; now it shares the responsibility with the Board of Agriculture. In this and the subsequent notes we deal with the novel points.

**THE BOARD'S CIRCULAR.**

The Board of Agriculture will, presumably, look after butter, cream, milk, and margarine products particularly. The Act gives power to deal with imported as well as home-made products. The circular issued to clerks to local authorities calls attention to the fact that Section 2, subsection 1, of the Act imposes upon the local authority the duty of appointing a public analyst and of putting in force the powers with which they are invested, so as to provide proper securities for the sale of food and drugs in a pure and genuine condition, and in particular the duty of directing their officers to take samples for analysis. If this is not done the Board has power to enforce the provisions at the expense of the local authorities, and says so in the circular. Local authorities are also asked to see that an adequate number of competent inspectors are employed as sampling officers.

**DAIRY BUSINESSES**

will, necessarily, be most affected by this circular. To what extent will chemists who sell sterilised, humanised, or condensed milk be affected? Condensed skimmed milk must be labelled "in large and legible type" to the effect that it is skimmed or separated if other kinds of milk are not hawked

on the street there is no need for retailers to do anything further than is done at present—that is, see that the sterilised milk and humanised milk are labelled as such. This is not a statutory requirement, but a trading precaution. The Board of Agriculture has power to make regulations in regard to "addition of extraneous matter or proportion of water in any sample of milk," which will affect humanised milk after the regulations are gazetted. As yet they are not drawn up.

**"MIXTURES."**

Section VIII. of the 1875 Act permits the sale of a food or drug mixed with any matter or ingredient not injurious to health, and not intended fraudulently to increase its bulk, weight, or measure, or conceal its inferior quality, if it is labelled to the effect that it is mixed. The label is considered sufficient notice, but the new Act requires that the label "be so written or printed that the notice of mixture is not obscured by other matter on the label." The use of labels or registered trade-marks which have been in use for seven years before January 1 is permitted. The provision applies to such things as mustard mixed with flour, and coffee and chicory. It may be held to apply to milk of sulphur if it can be proved that calcium sulphate is not injurious to health, but analysts have hitherto persuaded magistrates, in many cases, that the sulphate is injurious, or that it increases its weight. Section XVIII. of the new Act also bears upon mixtures. Under the 1875 Act retailers were bound to sell to an inspector an article exposed for sale—*e.g.*, mustard—and to break open a package or tin to give the quantity required. In this way it was possible that the retailer might forget the mixture-notice, and so get into trouble. The new Act says "no person shall be required to sell [any article of food or drug exposed for sale] except in the unopened tin or packet."

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

In the event of prosecution following the purchase of an article, proceedings must be taken within twenty-eight days of the purchase. If a warranty or invoice is to be relied upon as a defence, a copy of it, with a notice to the effect that it is to be the defence, must be sent to the purchaser within seven days after service of the summons. The same information must also be given to the person who gave the warranty or summons, and he will be entitled to appear and give evidence. Provision is also made in regard to any warranty or invoice issued outside the United Kingdom. The important new point here is the notification especially to the person who supplied the retailer, and who now often learns about the matter after the case has been decided and his name has been published as a supplier of bad stuff. The retailer has still to prove that he has sold the article in the same state as he purchased it. Sweet spirit of nitre cases will, especially, be influenced by this section.

**WHAT IS "FOOD"?**

"Every article used for food or drink by man, other than drugs or water, and any article which ordinarily enters into or is used in the composition or preparation of human food, also flavouring-matters and condiments." So says the new Act. Some makers of baking-powder are much alarmed at this. It simply means that it is risky to use alum. The main thing is to guard against any harmless addition to increase bulk, or any harmful addition whatsoever.

**A CHEMICAL LABORATORY.**—The chemical examiner's laboratory at the Medical College, Madras, is to be extended. The details of the various portions of the proposed new building have been carefully planned by the analyst, Major J. L. van Geyzel, after a close study of some of the home laboratories, with a view to meet the requirements of increasing analytical work.



## "The Pharmacopœia in its Relations to Pharmacists."

BY CHARLES F. MNEY.

DR. NESTOR TIRARD, a prominent worker in connection with the compilation of the British Pharmacopœia, has recently delivered a series of lectures on "Pharmacy and the British Pharmacopœia," before the Society of Apothecaries of London. His last lecture (*vide British Medical Journal*, page 1785, December 30, 1899), entitled "The Pharmacopœia in its Relation to Pharmacists," is an excellent and concise commentary on the important changes that were made in the Pharmacopœia, 1898.

Dr. Tirard, in summarising, asks "How the changes affect the chemist, the dispenser, and the manufacturer?" and follows with extracts from various journals, giving individual opinions as to the value of the work, then alludes to the dissatisfaction of the Irish representatives at the lack of opportunity they had of taking part in the production of the pharmacy portion of the work, and finally asks a question as to whether it is not desirable that the compilation of the Pharmacopœia should be in the hands of medical men? The lecturer concluded the lecture with the following:—

If we consider the way in which trade interests are affected by the Pharmacopœia, if we consider that the volume deals with things bought and sold, it is impossible not to realise the risks of trade competition, of trade influence, and the constant danger of introducing a standard which might create a monopoly. I would ask you whether, with this in view, it is not better that the compilation should be in the hands of those whose motives cannot be assailed, that the final responsibility should rest with those whose interests are not at stake.

As a pharmaceutical chemist, a manufacturer, and a member of the Pharmacopœia Revision Committee, I decline to believe, notwithstanding the official position which Dr. Tirard has held in connection with the Pharmacopœia, that he is acting as the mouthpiece of the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council. One would have fancied that a new era would not have dawned so late in the nineteenth century, and that the pharmacist who, the century through, had been accredited with honesty, would not in these latter days have so degenerated that such whisperings should be heard concerning him as "let no such man be trusted."

What a forlorn hope, too, for the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society when called upon to elect their Pharmacopœia Revision Committee from such material. Possibly those who knew their *confrères* best thought, "Peradventure ten shall be found" who will not (as Dr. Tirard says) "introduce standards which might create a monopoly."

To comment in detail upon the several points embodied in the lecturer's concluding paragraph would probably be unprofitable and assuredly irritating, and I will dismiss the subject by saying that there are drug-traders out of Great Britain, and that in all civilised countries (England only excepted) pharmacists have a well-defined and important share in pharmacopœia publication and revision.

Having dissented thus much from the suggestions of Dr. Tirard I venture to state that, in my opinion, there will always continue to be an unsatisfactory and incomplete revision and publication of our national Pharmacopœia (from the pharmacist's point of view) until a well-planned scheme be agreed upon, and the devising of such scheme should not (as on previous occasions) be put off for another seven years, but should be taken in hand at once. There should be no secrecy in pharmacopœia-making—each new year should find us "up to date," aided by the Editor's

annual report—but such a report in perfection is impossible without proper equipment and thorough organisation. My suggestions are subjoined:—

1. That there should be a decennial revision of the British Pharmacopœia.
2. That the next edition should be published January 1, 1910, and that prior to its publication there should be an attempt to make such issue "Statute Law."
3. That six months prior to its publication (July 1, 1909) the book in its entirety should be exhibited in ten centres in Great Britain and Ireland (say five in England, three in Scotland, and two in Ireland).
4. That the General Medical Council should appoint an Editor of the Pharmacopœia and retain his additional services as Reporter.
5. That the General Medical Council should request the Pharmaceutical Societies of Great Britain and Ireland to nominate a committee of ten pharmaceutical chemists, five to be nominated by England, three by Scotland, and two by Ireland. The committee to be a permanent one, such committee to have a secretary.
6. That the Pharmacists' Committee should meet at not less than three monthly intervals and furnish annually complete data to the Editor, who should be empowered to report on them and publish and circulate in a manner to be agreed upon by the General Medical Council.
7. That once in six months at least, and at such time as the Medical Council may think fit, a sub-committee of the Pharmacists' Committee should have a conference with the Medical Council Committee and the Editor. (The sub-committee referred to should not consist of more than four, two of such sub-committee to be representatives of England and one each of Scotland and Ireland.)
8. That no fees be paid to pharmacists for any research or other work. That particulars of all material used in pharmacopœial work be furnished annually to the committee's secretary, and all charges for same be at cost price.
9. That the General Medical Council pay all travelling-expenses of members of the Committee Meeting in London quarterly (or oftener), the salary of the permanent secretary of the Committee and all amounts disbursed by the secretary for material used.
10. That the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain do undertake to give the Committee every facility to carry on its work in its buildings free of charge, and, if requested, place its research-laboratory at the Committee's service.

If the General Medical Council would deal with the whole subject, and in its deliberations give due weight to the entire conditions under which the Pharmacopœias of Germany and the United States of America are produced, it would rid itself at once and for all time of that objectionable friction that has been going on more or less for a generation, and would do justice to pharmacy, no injustice to medicine, and cause no loss of dignity to the medical profession.

Southwark, London.

## Wills of Deceased Chemists.

**BACKHOUSE.**—The will of the late Mr. William Backhouse, pharmaceutical chemist, 34 Upperhead Row, Leeds, has been proved by Mrs. Backhouse, the widow, Mr. Fred Backhouse, the son, and Mr. James Carr, the executors of the testator, whose estate is sworn at 803*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

**CORDWIN.**—Letters of administration to the estate of the late Mr. William Cordwin, chemist and druggist, Cinderford, who died intestate, have been granted to his widow, by whom the deceased's estate is sworn at 3,226*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

**CORNER.**—The late Mr. T. B. Corner, chemist and druggist Whitley, having died intestate, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his daughter, Miss Mary Corner, by whom the gross value was sworn at 977*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*

**COWAN.**—The value of the estate of the late Mr. Phineas Cowan, of L. Cowan & Sons, and J. & P. Cowan, 7 Mincing Lane, and 34 Fenchurch Street, E.C., soap-makers, is entered for probate at 43,895*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* His executors are his sons, Lewis P. Cowan, David Cowan, and Harry D. Cowan, and his brother, Mr. John Cowan. The testator leaves to his son, Lewis P. Cowan, his share in the businesses aforementioned, upon certain conditions specified in his will, now proved.

## Legal Reports.

### Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

#### SWEET SPIRIT OF NITRE.

THOMAS GELL POWELL, grocer, Newton-le-Willows, at Bedale Town Hall on December 26 pleaded guilty to selling 6 oz. of sweet spirit of nitre which, on being analysed, was found to be deficient in ethyl nitrite to the extent of at least 21 per cent. Defendant said he sold the nitre just as he received it from his brother at Bedale, who had a guarantee. Fined 1s. and 8s. 6d. costs.

At Barton-on-Trent Petty Sessions on December 29, Samuel Rolls, drysalter, was fined 20s. and 33s. costs for selling sweet spirit of nitre which was not only deficient in ethyl nitrite, but also contained an excess of water.

#### GREGORY'S POWDER.

At West Ham Police Court, on January 3, George S. Drayton, chemist, 80 Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, was summoned for selling compound rhubarb-powder not in accordance with the British Pharmacopœia, as it contained only 30 per cent., instead of 66.6 per cent., of magnesia. The defendant said he had only recently taken over the business, and the article in question was already made up and marked. After his attention had been drawn to the matter he examined the article, and found that it had been made with carbonate in place of oxide of magnesia. Most chemists used the carbonate instead of the oxide, as it mixed more freely with water.

Mr. T. Alfred Smith deposed to the purchase, but stated, in cross-examination by the defendant, that he did not ask for "compound rhubarb-powder, B.P.," nor did he present a doctor's prescription. He asked for "compound rhubarb-powder." Another official, who received the article, said he intended to purchase the British Pharmacopœia article. He understood that to be the only standard.

Mr. Baggallay (the Magistrate): When did it become so?  
 The Witness: It is only common knowledge.

By the Defendant: Mr. Smith was not told to purchase the British Pharmacopœia article. He had his instructions in writing.

Mr. Baggallay: It does not matter what were the instructions; he did not ask for "compound rhubarb-powder, B.P."

The Defendant: Unless the B.P. is specially asked for the chemist uses his discretion. It makes not the slightest difference. The chief ingredients, ginger and rhubarb, are in the proper proportion.

Mr. Baggallay said he was of opinion that the summons could not be supported, even if it was in itself good. The information stated that the article was not genuine compound rhubarb powder according to the "British Pharmacopœia," as it contained only 30 per cent. of magnesia, whereas 66 per cent. was prescribed by the "British Pharmacopœia." But it was not necessary that a drug to be genuine should be made according to the "British Pharmacopœia." There was no act of Parliament which made the "British Pharmacopœia" the standard of any compound of drugs. The statement that the drug was not according to the "British Pharmacopœia" was bad on the face of it, but if that was not bad, the certificate of the analyst did not prove the case. He did not say the compound powder of rhubarb was not genuine, but it was not in accordance with the "British Pharmacopœia." The case would be dismissed.

Mr. Drayton asked for costs, and was granted 10s.

#### VINEGAR.

At Marlborough Street Police Court on December 29, a grocer was summoned for selling vinegar adulterated with 0.1556 per cent. of sulphuric acid. Dr. Edmunds, public analyst to the Vestry, having deposed to the correctness of the analysis, Dr. Atfield gave evidence of having applied every test for sulphuric acid in the vinegar, but he could find no trace of it. What he, however, did find was some phosphoric acid, which was a natural constituent of the vinegar. Eventually a sample of the vinegar was sent to Somerset House, and the certificate of Dr. Edmunds was confirmed. A fine of 5s., with 6s. 6d. costs, was imposed.

#### CAMPHORATED OIL.

At the Lambeth Police Court on January 2, Annie Wolff described as a medical herbalist, Peckham, was summoned for selling camphorated oil which upon analysis was found to contain only 6.7 per cent. of camphor, being a deficiency of 74 per cent. The name of Madame Wolff, medical herbalist, was said to be upon the bottle. Defendant did not dispute the analyst's certificate. It was stated that she bought the business about eighteen months ago, and sold decoctions for coughs, embrocations for pains, and so forth. She made the oil from a book of recipes left by the previous owner of the business. A penalty of 20s. and 17s. 6d. costs was imposed.

#### BORIC ACID IN CREAM.

MESSRS. HUDSON BROTHERS (LIMITED) were fined 10s. and 20s. at Westminster Police Court last week for selling cream, to which boric acid had been added as a preservative. The evidence for the defence (part of which has been previously reported) tended to prove that no injury had been done, but the Magistrate held that defendants should satisfy him that the preservative was not injurious to health. It was intimated that an appeal might be made to Quarter Sessions, whereupon the Magistrate admitted that his decision settled nothing, because this was a question of fact as to which there might be a difference of opinion.

### County Court Cases.

IN our issue of December 23, 1899, we reported two actions for debt against Mr. H. B. Spink, chemist, 134 Theobald's Road, W.C. Another came before Mr. Commissioner Kerr on January 2 in respect to a debt of 3s. 15s., said to be due to Wickens, Pease & Co. (Limited), 83 Queen Street, E.C., whose solicitor said that they had not levied execution as defendant had taken in a partner. Mr. Commissioner Kerr suggested that a receiver should be appointed, but the solicitor replied that the amount due was small. "Then why not abandon the whole proceedings?" queried the Commissioner. It was then discovered that the defendant had not been served personally with the summons, so the Commissioner struck the case out.

## Sequestration Report.

#### Re GEORGE D. KIRKNESS, Helensburgh, Chemist.

THE following are the ordinary creditors (over 2s.) of this debtor, whose assets and liabilities were mentioned last week:—

	£	s.	d.
Aërotors Company (Limited), London ...	2	1	9
Allen & Hanburys (Limited), London ...	9	4	11
Bentley, E., & Son, London ...	9	19	8
Beveridge, Dr., Crookedholm ...	693	0	0
Brown, Gray & Co., Glasgow ...	5	18	11
Blyton, Astley & Co., Manchester ...	2	13	8
Corbyn, Stacey & Co. (Limited), London ...	4	1	0
Fassett & Johnson, London ...	3	6	2
Fraser, John, Helensburgh ...	4	2	7
Glasgow New Apothecaries' Company ...	45	1	4
Glasgow Apothecaries' Company ...	39	19	9
Hatrick, W. and R., & Co., Glasgow ...	5	9	1
Harvie, George, Helensburgh ...	12	19	6
Kirkness, John, Kirkwall ...	55	0	0
Lorimer & Moyes ...	4	18	2
Mackay, John, & Co., Edinburgh ...	12	6	0
Munro, McLaren & Sunderland, Glasgow ...	8	8	6
National Telephone Company ...	9	2	5
Oldfield, Pattinson & Co., Manchester ...	14	19	8
Pinkerton, Gibson & Co., Edinburgh ...	11	7	8
Raines, Clark & Co., Edinburgh ...	8	17	11
Reid, James A., Helensburgh ...	56	0	0
Reid, James A., Helensburgh ...	26	18	0
Rimmel, E., London ...	4	0	0
Smith & Co., London ...	4	2	6
Smith, T. and H., & Co., Edinburgh ...	12	9	10
Spurgay & Co., London ...	2	5	6
Steiner & Co., London ...	2	2	0
Steven, A., & Son, Helensburgh ...	6	0	6
York Glass Company ...	5	10	3



## New Companies & Company news.

**DENBIGHSHIRE INFIRMARY (INCORPORATED).**—Limited by guarantee, with 100 members, each liable for 1*l*. Objects: To acquire and carry on the Denbighshire Infirmary.

**ELLIS BARLOW (LIMITED).**—Capital 100*l*, in 1*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the goodwill and trade-marks of the business of Ellis Barlow, and to carry on the same for the benefit and under the control of the United Indigo and Chemical Company (Limited), who are the permanent managers. Registered office, 26 Pall Mall, Manchester.

**JAMES EMMETT (LIMITED).**—Capital and objects as in the case of Ellis Barlow (Limited). **J. R. HAAS & CO. (LIMITED)**, ditto; **CLAYTON, HOLDROD & CO. (LIMITED)**, ditto; and **WILLIAM HEYWOOD (LIMITED)**, ditto.

**PATTISON & GEAR (LIMITED).**—Capital 40,000*l*, in 10*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on as "J. & J. Pattison & Co.," and "The Central Chocolate Company," at Birmingham, and to carry on the business of manufacturing confectioners, drysalers, chemists, &c. The first directors are R. S. Brown, F. S. Bolton, F. Pattison, W. Pattison, and H. G. Gear. Qualification 1,000*l*.

**STANDARD ANHYDROUS AMMONIA COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 100,000*l*, in 1*l* shares. Objects: To adopt three agreements with certain vendor-companies (not named), and to carry on the business of chemical manufacturers and merchants, artificial-manure makers, chemists, &c. Each of the vendor-companies may appoint one director. Qualification 1,000*l*. Remuneration 400*l* per annum, divisible. Registered office, 85 Gracechurch Street, E.C.

**J. WHITTALL & CO. (LIMITED).**—Capital 50,000*l*, in 1*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at 9 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., as "J. Whittall & Co.," and to carry on the business (*inter alia*) of chemical merchants. R. S. Corbett is the permanent managing-director. Special qualification, 10,000 shares. Remuneration, 2,000*l* per annum. Registered office, 9 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C.

**GRUNDY'S (LIMITED).**—Capital 500*l*, in 1*l* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of artificial teeth and surgical instruments, and to employ qualified persons to act on the company's behalf as dentists, &c. The subscribers are:—W. Grundy, artificial-tooth maker, and Mrs A. Grundy, Finington, near Feniscowles, Lancs; W. M. Gillibrand, shoe-dealer, 116 Park Road, Chorley, Lancs; and Miss M. J. Derbyshire, Miss E. E. Charnock, T. Derbyshire, dyer, and J. H. Derbyshire, beetler, all of 1 Edward Street, Chorley, Lancs. Registered without articles of association.

**LONDON PRODUCE CLEARING-HOUSE.**—The directors recommend dividends of 3*s*. 6*d*. per share on the ordinary shares, making, with the interim dividend, 11 per cent. per annum, and 20*l*. 16*s*. 8*d*. per share on the founders' shares, carrying forward 4,600*l*.

**HICKS & CO. (LIMITED).**—An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at Cardiff, on December 29, when it was resolved to voluntarily wind up the company. Messrs. E. C. Dovey and A. Bennett were appointed liquidators to authorise the registration of a new company under the title of Bennett & Co. (Limited).

## Trade-Marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. Dalton, Esq., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost 1*l*, obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," December 20, 1899.)

"**SWIMBATH**"; for veterinary preparations. By the Tobacco Warehousing and Trading Company (Incorporated), 311 Linn Street, Danville, Va. 227,263.

"**YIX KINTRA**" and "**REVIVINE**" (no claim for "Revive"); for medicines. By F. A. Wild, 16 Nelson Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees. 225,426, 225,455.

Fancy label, with wording, "The New French Remedy—Therapion"; for a medicine. By R. H. N. Johnson, 43 Holford Square, W.C. 226,718.

"**VISPYROUS**" (no claim for "Vis" and "Pyro"); for chemicals. By R. H. Smith, 176 Roundhay Road, Leeds. 226,838.

"**KARACHE**"; for chemicals and perfumery. By H. Hartley, 39 Corporation Street, Birmingham. 226,933, 226,934.

"**CUPRAGOL**" (no claim for "Cupra"); for a pharmaceutical product. By the Farbenfabriken vorm. F. Bayer & Co. Elberfeld. 227,113.

"**PEPSENCIA**" (no claim for "Pepsin"); for foods. By Fairchild Brothers & Foster, Rose Street, New York. 226,767.

"**VELAUNUS**"; for mineral and aerated waters. By M. B. Foster & Sons (Limited), Marylebone Road, W. 226,437.

"**TÊTE-À-TÊTE**"; for perfumery and toilet articles. By C. Thomas & Brothers (Limited), Bristol. 226,600.

Bust-portrait of masked lady (the essential particular) and wording, "Sylcaire"; for perfumery and toilet articles. By J. E. B. Grice, 109 Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, S.E. 226,653.

"**SANTOR**"; for goods in Class 48. By R. B. Breidenbach, 48 Greek Street, Soho Square, W. 226,653.

"**VERINA**"; for perfumery and toilet articles. By G. W. Goodwin & Son, Ordsall Lane, Manchester. 227,066.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," December 27, 1899.)

"**SULFARIN**" (no claim for "Sulfa"; for chemical substances. By Stackmann & Retschy, Lehrte, near Hanover. 226,649.

"**TIGHE'S AMMONINE**" and pictorial device and wording (no claim for "Ammoni"; essential particulars are the device and word "Ammonine"); for medicine. By Wynne Tighe & Sons, 3 and 4 High Street, Exeter. 226,008.

"**COPEO**"; for medicated soap and perfumery, &c. By the N. K. Fairbank Company, 277 Dearborn Street, Chicago. 226,921, 226,929.

"**FOAMINE**" (no claim for "Foam"); for chemical-substances. By Newball & Mason, Hyson Green, Nottingham. 227,097.

"**HELMITOL**" (no claim for "Helm"); for a pharmaceutical product. By F. Bayer & Co., Königstrasse 27, Elberfeld. 227,114.

"**MALARKEY**"; for aerated beverages. By A. Smith, Auboro Street, Scarborough. 226,137.

"**SPARKLETARIS**" (no claim for "Sparklet"); for mineral and aerated waters. By Aërotors (Limited), 56 Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C. 226,596.

Device of tortoise; for mineral and aerated waters. By the Lagos Stores (Limited), 6 Stanley Street, Liverpool. 226,803.

"**GOLDEN CHARM**" (no claim for "Golden"); for perfumery and toilet articles. By the Erasmic Company (Limited), Bank Quay, Warrington. 226,165.

"**YELINO**" and printed label (essential particular "Yelino"); for polishing cream. By J. T. Boldon, 32 Uppate, Louth, Lincs. 225,966.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," January 3, 1900.)

"**CENTAUR**," and device of that animal; for chemical-substances. By S. Tudor & Co. (Limited), 238 Wincolmlee, Hull. 226,457.

Device of horse-shoe; for carbide of calcium. By the Giffie Electro Chemical and Power Company (Limited), 11 Cornhill, London, E.C. 227,076.

"**ANATALINE**," and device (essential particulars, the device and word "Anataline"); for moth-destroyer. By J. Etherington, 39A King William Street, E.C. 227,167.

"**VACCOMA**," and wording on label (essential particular, "Vaccoma"); for cattle-medicine. By Day, Son & Hewitt, 22 Dorset Street, Baker Street, W. 226,934.

"**FFISIGORA**"; for indigestion, &c., medicine. By Owen Jones, Market Street, Abergyle. 225,822.

"**TRAUMATOL**" (no claim for "Traumato"); for a new antiseptic. By Oppenheimer, Son & Co. (Limited), 179 Queen Victoria Street, E.C. 226,763.

"**FEROCAL**" (no claim for "Ferro"); for chemical-substances. By Squire & Sons, 413 Oxford Street, W. 227,168.

"**SOLOO**"; for toothache, &c., remedies. By S. C. Shaw, 17 Claremont Grove, Didsbury, Manchester. 227,019.

Device of old locomotive-engine; for mineral, &c., waters. By the Darlington Bottling and Mineral-water Company (Limited), Holly Street, Darlington. 227,181.

## Trade Notes.

MESSRS. C. McCOMBIE & Co., 19 St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C., have been appointed agents for Messrs. Warriek Frères, Grasse.

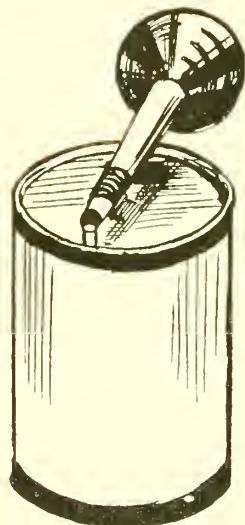
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—We shall be glad if subscribers will insert amongst the telegraphic addresses in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1900, "Sharland & Company, Chemically, London."

THE PARIS MEDICINE COMPANY, of St. Louis, are opening an agency at 28 Shoe Lane, London, E.C., for the purpose of introducing their household specialities here. These include febriline, a tasteless syrup of amorphous quinine (for the use of children and others who object to the taste of quinine), Grove's tasteless chill tonic, Porter's antiseptic healing oil, and other specialities.

THE Central Evening School of Pharmacy, which Dr. Ashcroft Ellwood and Messrs. C. E. Sage, F.C.S., and J. Mackenzie have been so successfully conducting for some time past, resumes work at 48 Lamb's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, W.C., on January 12. In addition to the Minor classes there will be an advanced analytical, chemical, and biological class, which is of the nature of the post-graduate course. Full particulars may be obtained from the address named.

FOR THE CHILDREN.—Messrs. J. Hulme & Co., 15 Fetter Lane, Manchester, have submitted to us a sample of Dr. Kent's "Safety Sootherine," a specific for children, which they state has already secured a healthy colonial demand. The mixture is an agreeable preparation attractively put up, and applications for agencies for home trade should be addressed to Messrs. Hulme without delay. Each carton contains a pamphlet giving directions for the treatment and nursing of sick children.

A CHEAP SPRAY. Messrs. Shirley Bros., Rockingham Street, S.E., send us a sample of a new spray-producer



which they are introducing to the trade. It takes the form of a small tin, capacity about 4 oz., with two holes in the top and a little raised eyelet to hold a tiny funnel, which is inserted as shown in our sketch. On blowing through this funnel as if it were a trumpet are the contents of the tin, such as disinfectant or insecticide for plants or cage-birds, quickly dispersed in the form of a fine spray. The "spray" costs 3s. per doz.

THE PRIZE ESSAY on sulphate of ammonia, by Mr. James Muir, M.R.A.C., has been published by the Sulphate of Ammonium Committee, 4 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C. It is a well-printed booklet of sixty-eight pages, and treats in a comprehensive manner of the claims of sulphate of ammonia as a nitrogenous manure and its utility generally in agriculture.

As Mr. Muir was formerly professor at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and at the York-shire College, Leeds, he writes with knowledge and authority. Copies of the essay, price 6d., may be obtained from the committee at the above address.

SOMATOSE.—Since the British Somatose Company, 165 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., arranged for the sale of this invalid foodstuff (manufactured by Bayer, of Elberfeld) it has steadily advanced in appreciation with physicians. It is an article offered to the public solely through chemists, and it may be useful to our subscribers if we briefly refer to its properties. It is a meat preparation in the form of powder. 1 oz. of which retails at 1s. 8d. It seems a long price, compared with jelly and paste beef preparations; but its peculiar characters and the absence of all but combined water bring the price below the average. Somatose is made from meat by a process

which converts the nutrient bodies into soluble substances without an undue amount of peptone, the greater proportion consisting of albumoses. Dr. Thomas Stevenson and Dr. A. P. Luff, jointly, recently communicated a paper to the *Lancet* on somatose, in the course of which they gave its composition as—

	Per cent.
Deutero-albumose ... ..	51.60
Hetero-albumose ... ..	13.40
Peptone... ..	5.00
Water ... ..	11.04
Mineral matter... ..	5.02

It is a buff-coloured powder which dissolves easily in water, milk, &c., and is the purest form of dictetic albumose obtainable. The mineral matter consists chiefly of potassium phosphate. As to its properties, we cannot do better than quote Drs. Stevenson and Luff's conclusions:—

(1) Somatose is a true meat nutrient, possessing restorative and stimulating powers; (2) it is well borne by delicate patients; (3) improves digestion and causes no gastro-intestinal disturbances; (4) has a favourable effect on general metabolism; and (5) has no irritant effect on the kidneys and never gives rise to albuminuria, albumosuria, or peptonuria. In those cases in which albuminuria existed prior to the administration of somatose the albumin gradually disappeared from the urine during its administration.

It will be remembered that the Pope when *in extremis* was fed with somatose. There are also a milk-somatose and an iron-somatose, which retail at 2s. per oz.

## Festivities.

### GLASGOW CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION.

This Association celebrated the Christmas and New Year holidays by giving a *conversazione* in the Mid-Masonic Hall, 10 Regent Street, Glasgow, on December 29. There was a strong muster of members and their friends, amongst the invited guests being Messrs. J. Lothian and T. S. Barrie. A capital programme of dances and songs carried the merry-making on unflaggingly until an early hour in the morning, when the company separated with an Oliver Twist appetite for more.

### THE EXTRACT DINNER.

The annual monster Christmas entertainment provided by Messrs. Newball & Mason, of Nottingham, for their employes this year seems to have been on as large a scale as ever. The dinner, which took place on December 29, was prepared entirely on the premises, and the decorations of the room, gay and attractive as usual, were wholly the work of the employes themselves. The programme, in itself an artistic production, includes about fifty separate items, such as songs, duets, recitations, violin and pianoforte solos, besides a number of orchestral selections of a high-class character, and a complete historical drama, "Charles the Twelfth, or King and Commoner," well played by the Mason-Deville Dramatic Club. The *tout ensemble* is a mass of good things. The dinner was presided over by Mr. T. Mason, with Mr. B. Deville as vice.

### COMPLIMENTARY.

On December 28 a complimentary dinner was given by the members of the staff of Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barelay (Limited), Birmingham, to Mr. E. F. Elwell, who, after representing the firm in the Midlands for some 22 years, is now retiring. Mr. W. Heal was chairman, and among those present were Messrs. H. Boucher (Birmingham representative), W. H. Fletcher (representative for London and Ireland), E. A. Jones (late Western representative, who is to succeed Mr. Elwell), W. H. Lang (South African representative), T. Ground (sundries manager), W. E. Hipkiss (managing accountant), O. K. Hunt (mineral-water manager), W. Mott (Norwegian manager), W. Penistone, J. V. Hurst, and others. A handsome piece of plate, subscribed for by the staff, was presented to Mr. Elwell by the Chairman. After Mr. Elwell had thanked them a smoking-concert followed, to which Messrs. F. G. Inghes, Felix Powell, H. W. Hunt, D. Davies, H. Firkin, R. Howard, J. Nield, and J. Kennard contributed entertaining items.



## Winter Session.

Notices of meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." If meetings are not attended by reporters, secretaries of associations would oblige by communicating with the Editor.

### Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.

#### NORTHERN BRANCH.

A GENERAL MEETING of the members of the above Society was held on December 29 at Garfield Chambers, Belfast. Mr. W. Jamison (Vice-President) occupied the chair. The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. W. J. Rankin) read the notice convening the meeting, and read letters of apology from the President (Sir Jas. Haslett, M.P.)—who is only recovering from a severe illness—Messrs. S. Gibson, J. Watson, and others.

The CHAIRMAN, in adverting to the first item on the agenda, that of

#### INCREASED REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL.

of the Pharmaceutical Society, said since his election on that body he had been asked to bring forward several matters of much interest and importance to chemists and druggists as well as their apprentices. He thought if the chemists and druggists were sincere in their demands for adequate representation they had now a favourable opportunity of attaining that end. Referring to his own election, he said the pharmaceutical body had shown a friendly disposition towards the druggists, when it was remembered that in the North of Ireland comparatively few were qualified to vote in favour of a candidate of their own. If the druggists were not prepared to qualify as associates they had no right to expect increased representation.

Mr. CARSE said personally he had not received much encouragement from the Pharmaceutical Council to warrant him in acting upon the Chairman's suggestions.

Mr. RANKIN was convinced that, notwithstanding anything that had taken place in the past, the Council as now constituted were actuated by a spirit of friendliness towards the chemists and druggists.

Mr. ACHESON said that he was not aware of any prosecution instituted by the Council or any other action of theirs which was not in the interests of chemists and druggists as much as in those of pharmacists.

Ultimately the following resolution, proposed by Mr. CARSE, and seconded by Mr. ACHESON, was unanimously adopted:—

Believing that the Pharmaceutical Council are agreeable to accept increased representation from the chemists and druggists, we recommend the latter body in the North of Ireland to qualify as associates with the view of securing further and adequate representation, as the members of this Society are strongly convinced such a course would tend to advance the best interests of both sections of the trade.

#### STAMP-TRADING.

Mr. RANKIN reported that the committee had their attention drawn to the number of druggists who had introduced the system of distributing trading-stamps. After carefully considering the matter, the committee unanimously came to the conclusion that the system was not to be encouraged. A motion was, therefore, submitted to the meeting, and adopted, urging upon those traders who had introduced the stamps to discontinue distributing same.

#### CUTTING-PRICES.

The report of the Price-list Committee was submitted by the HON. SECRETARY, who reported that, according to instructions, he had written to a number of manufacturers suggesting that they should adopt some means whereby a fair profit would be secured on the sale of their goods. The replies were submitted to the meeting and carefully considered. In almost every case sympathy was expressed with the object aimed at by the committee, and further information or suggestions requested. After a short discussion, if

was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the committee.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the Society on February 2, the details and arrangements to be left to the committee.

#### NEW MEMBER.

Mr. J. Guthrie was unanimously elected a member of the Society.

The meeting afterwards adjourned.

### Darwen Chemists Meet.

ON January 2 Mr. LORD GIFFORD delivered an address to Darwen chemists at a meeting held there. The essence of the speech was the individual principle of the Pharmacy Act and its violation by limited companies. He pointed out that if companies were made to give up calling themselves chemists and dealing in poisons, it would be impossible for the practice of pharmacy to go with the title, and then a rational Pharmacy Bill would be a comparatively easy possibility. He strongly deprecated anything in the nature of compromise in this matter, and expressed the opinion that a qualified directorate was absurd. He concluded by declaring that it was now universally accepted that the views of the majority of the Law and Parliamentary Committee of the Pharmaceutical Council, which were defeated by the Council at the November meeting, were the nearest to justice and should prevail. To get this carried out he recommended united action.

### Public Dispensers' Association.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Association was held at St. Bride's Institute on January 3. Mr. Wilford in the chair. To give effect to the affiliating-resolution of the Poor-law Dispensers' Association, it was decided that the name of the Association should be in future the "Public and Poor-law Dispensers' Association"; that there should be two Secretaries, one a General Secretary, the Poor-law Secretary having power to call together at any time the Poor-law members of the Council to discuss any matter particularly affecting them.

The meeting then resolved itself into the annual general meeting of the Association, and the annual report was read by the SECRETARY (Mr. G. F. Forster). In the course of his address Mr. Forster mentioned with satisfaction the success which had attended the efforts of the P.D.A. in obtaining an increased scale of remuneration, and hoped that the combined Associations would be a greater source of strength to all public dispensers. Owing to various causes the meetings had not been very numerous during the past year. Mr. F. N. Clark's lecture was recalled, and the discussions on the poison regulations and on pharmaceutical politics. Financially the Association was able to again show a substantial balance in hand.

The TREASURER (Mr. S. B. Donnan) having read his report, and the retiring CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wilford) having addressed the meeting, the election of officers was proceeded with, and Mr. F. N. Clark was elected Chairman. Mr. Wilford to be Vice-Chairman. Mr. Donnan, owing to ill-health, would not accept re-election to the treasurer'ship, and Mr. Hewitt, of Holborn Union, was accordingly elected Treasurer. Messrs. Forster and Montague Smith were elected Secretaries, and Messrs. Duff, Donnan, Spencer, Lindsay, Totten, and Miller were elected to the Council. It was decided if possible to increase the number of country members by sending out special circulars. The SECRETARY said he received many interesting letters from country dispensers. Mr. Esam, of Leicester, had just written enclosing a double subscription (5s.) for the ensuing year, and wishing the Association continued success. He noted, he said, with great pleasure the report of the meetings in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. There was a good attendance of members, all being well pleased with their new quarters.

"COULD you tell me what this prescription calls for?" asked the inquisitive citizen. "Yes," answered the clerk, as he glanced over it rapidly. "fifty cents."

## The Livingstone Exhibition.

LIVINGSTONE is still a name to conjure with. Since the old missionary explorer died many an expedition has been equipped and done work which, in some respects, surpasses anything that the courageous doctor did; but nobody has explored like him. There is an individuality about Livingstone's work which demands perpetuation, and the Livingstone College has made an attempt in this direction by organising an exhibition, which was opened on Monday in St. Martin's Town Hall. Essentially the object of the exhibition is to show what special appliances and remedies are necessary for dwellers and travellers to preserve their health in such parts. The exhibition hardly came up to our expectations as a demonstration, being somewhat scrappy, but the subjoined notes indicate what is to be seen—only those who want to see it must be quick as it closes to-day (January 5).

First there are various relics of Livingstone, such as a sextant, slave-chains, ink-bottle, pen, clinometer, and other things used by him in Central Africa.

Next there is an Auxiliary Loan Exhibition. Here we noticed a native Chinese prescription lent by Mr. Elliot Howard. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. have on view the "tabloid" medicine-chests carried by Stanley through Africa, Emin Pasha's medicine-case, the Nansen "tabloid" medicine-belt, also Captain Stairs', and the raw-hide case carried by Julius Price through the Arctic regions. They have also a separate exhibit in the trade-section of the Congo, Indian, aluminium, and other tabloid medicine-chests. The original maximum thermometer invented and made by Professor Phillips, and a pair of maximum and minimum thermometers which Sir James Ross carried with him through his various expeditions, are lent by Mr. J. J. Hicks, who exhibits other scientific apparatus. Mr. T. Howard Lloyd, of Leicester, has lent a bicycle designed by Mr. A. B. Lloyd, of the Church Missionary Society, who made a journey through the Pigny Forest.

Clothing and outfits are in force, and many household articles which are good to have when you go to the tropics. Aërotors (Limited) recall the fact, by their exhibit, that their little sparklets went with Kitchener to Khartoum. Messrs. Allen & Hamburys (Limited) show their food specialities and surgical instruments and accessories, the latter including a new portable electric lamp, a wonderfully good thing for dental or surgical operations. It illuminates the mouth without interfering in the least with the operation, and by pressing against the inside of the cheek an x-ray effect is obtained. Bovril (Limited) show their special foods for travellers, and several other houses contribute to the comestible requirements of tropical travellers. The Berkefeld Filter Company exhibit filters specially adapted for travellers' needs, and antiseptics and sanitary requirements are provided by Mr. B. Kuhn, with a neat show of Chinosol preparations, and Messrs. Newton, Chambers & Co. (Limited), who have an exhibit of the Izal specialities. Messrs. Howards & Sons exhibit quinine salts, a bell of camphor, fine samples of cocaine, caffeine, and other fine chemicals, and a sample case of chemicals as packed for transport to Africa. Messrs. T. H. Lloyd & Co., of Leicester, are also showing various concentrated preparations, compressed tablets, and medicine-chests, in great variety. Messrs. Oppenheimer, Sons & Co. (Limited) are also there, with a large selection of palatinoids and bi-palatinoids, concentrated liquors, and medicine-chests.

FATAL FALL OF A PARIS PROFESSOR.—The post of assistant-professor of physics at the Paris School of Pharmacy is still vacant. M. Cauro was nominated last May, when the scholastic year was practically finished. During the holidays he went to the Alps, where he met with a terribly tragic fate, the following details of which have recently been published. He left Chamonix on August 28 at 8 A.M. with his companion, M. Lepian, and three guides to make some scientific experiments on the route des Grands Mulets. At a height of about 7,000 feet, rain began to fall and shelter was sought. M. Cauro, who brought up the rear, approached the brink of a precipice to examine the slopes. His foot slipped, and he was hurled down a depth of a thousand feet, rebounding like a ball, and was found at the bottom a shapeless mass.

## Literary Notes.

*Les Parfums Artificiels.* By EUGÈNE CHARABOT. 8vo. Pp. 300. J. B. Baillière et Fils.

WITHIN recent years but few fields of chemical industry have widened their borders at a more rapid rate than that which involves the study of artificial perfumes. Obvious difficulties, therefore, lie in the path of an author who endeavours to deal with this subject in a book which shall be at once comprehensive and up to date. Nevertheless, this volume of the *Encyclopédie de Chimie Industrielle* should prove extremely valuable alike to the chemist and technologist.

From the standpoint of the former its advantages lie mainly in the classification of the perfumes in order of the chemical families from which they spring, and in the enumeration of preparation-methods, which are frequently of historical or scientific interest, although in practical importance they may have given place to more novel processes. This feature renders the sections which deal with vanillin and artificial musks particularly useful, because the original literature of these subjects is diffused through various journals of many years.

The present work is not confined to those perfumes which have been obtained in the laboratory by synthetical methods, but embraces all odoriferous principles of known constitution. It therefore considers, in addition to those mentioned, artificial heliotrope, violet, and lily of the valley, as represented by heliotropin, ionone, and terpineol respectively, and also deals with linalol, borneol, safrol and other substances which, although not themselves employed in perfumery, constitute the bases of artificial scents.

Paragraphs in each chapter are devoted to the occurrence, extraction, preparation, properties, and applications of the materials considered, and in some cases curves are shown which illustrate the fluctuation in price during a period of several years. Information of this character, together with the analytical methods employed in estimating commercial specimens and in detecting adulterants, should recommend the book to the technologist.

The volume is of handy form, and is well supplied with references to original memoirs.

THE "MEDICAL DIRECTORY."—Messrs. J. & A. Churchill inform us that in a fire at their printers' the sheets and type of their 1900 "Medical Directory" have been destroyed. Steps are being taken to replace these, but finished copies of the work will not be ready until early in February. We feel sure that subscribers will give Messrs. Churchill their sympathy.

KAURI GUM.—It may be useful to note that an article describing, evidently from intimate personal knowledge, the production and preparation for the market of kauri gum in New Zealand, is published in *Longman's Magazine* for January. The author is Mr. C. Waterston. He gives some interesting details of the manners and customs of the kauri-diggers.

THE LATE DR. EVANS, the American dentist, accompanied the Empress Eugénie in her flight from the Tuileries, and published an account of the events in his "Tale of the Second French Empire." Only a very limited number of copies of this work were printed, and the manuscript was left in the hands of a M. Symonds, a Paris bookseller. After Dr. Evans's death his heirs claimed this manuscript, and as M. Symonds refused to give it up he was summoned before the 11th Correctional Chamber, but did not appear, and was condemned to eight days' imprisonment, a fine of 100f., and 500f. damages.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE POTANY, &c.—Mr. G. Claridge Druce, M.A., is engaged on the compilation of a flora of Buckinghamshire, and would welcome any information upon the subject. It will be on the same lines as his "Berkshire Flora." Mr. Druce is also writing "The Botany of Northamptonshire" for the "Victorian County History," which is in preparation, and has written the introductory portion on the geology and botany for the new edition of "Murray's Guide to Berkshire," which has been edited and rewritten by Mr. J. Meade Falkner, who so excellently edited "Murray's Guide to Oxfordshire."



## Pharmacopœia Difficulties.

WITH the January issue of their price-list, Messrs. Wright Layman & Umney (Limited) insert a series of notes by Mr. John C. Umney on difficulties which have arisen in respect to practical details of the B.P. These notes are upon glacial acetic acid, aconite-root, atropine sulphate, asafoetida, creosote, liquid extract of cascara sagrada, gluside, ipecacuanha and its preparations, jaborandi-leaves, liquor pau-creatis, almond oil, castor oil, scammony, compound spirit of ether, terebene, and conium ointment. Many of the observations are taken from papers previously published by Mr. J. C. Umney. We observe that he has now received confirmation of his suggestion in the *C. & D.*, September 10, 1898, page 459, that there is not sufficient spirit in liquid extract of cascara sagrada to prevent fermentation, and in practice his company now use 5 oz. of alcohol to the pint instead of 4 oz. required by the B.P. The notes on ipecacuanha are especially interesting, in view of recent criticism on this subject, and we cannot do better than quote from it. He alludes to Dr. Attfield's simile of the B.P. being a collection of gems more or less polished, and says:—

In respect to ipecacuanha, his words might be interpreted as meaning that the natural gem was the process for liquid extract of ipecacuanha "discovered" by J. Oldham Braithwaite and the writer. Unfortunately it was "set" in the British Pharmacopœia without having received the stages of "more or less polishing" at the hands of other pharmaceutical workers. Although the modified estimation-processes suggested by Wilson and others may show that the proportion of alkaloids present in the liquid extract as indicated by the pharmacopœial process is below actual fact, it seems imperative that manufacturers should adhere to the process or standard fixed by the Pharmacopœia, as it is not one that "may be used," but must be used.

A far more important point, however, is to draw special attention to certain difficulties in the keeping of standardised ipecacuanha preparations. Paul and Cownley stated in one of their elaborate communications on the chemistry of ipecacuanha (*Ph. J.*, iii., 25, 690) that "Solutions of the alkaloids in alcohol, chloroform, benzene, or ether, also become coloured on exposure to light, with formation of a reddish-coloured deposit. The salts of both alkaloids on the contrary do not appear to undergo similar alteration, but in a pure state remain perfectly colourless when exposed to light."

Rutherford Hill (*C. & D.*, July 29, 1899, page 226) stated that a case had been brought under his notice in which the wine had been prepared with the standardised liquid extract and estimated when made, and after six months, on being reassayed, was found to have lost 25 per cent. of alkaloids.

The deterioration in strength of the wine and liquid extract has been under observation in the W. L. & U. research-laboratory for some little time past at the suggestion of Mr. J. Hinton Lake, of Exeter, and so far as results show there can be no question that deterioration does take place in the alkaloidal value of the liquid extract, and even more rapid deterioration in the wine.

Braithwaite and the writer found no deterioration in the liquid extract after six weeks (*Ph. J.*, September 28, 1899, page 253)—not six months, as stated by Bird in speaking from memory at Plymouth—but of course the method of determination and basis of calculation differed from that of the B.P. 1898.

I understand that the matter has been under investigation for some time past by a prominent pharmacist, and that important results will shortly be recorded bearing very materially upon this point. In the meantime it seems desirable to place these observations on record.

While these notes were going through the press, observations to the same effect were made by Mr. R. Glode Gayer, of Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co.'s staff, and communicated to a contemporary.

Mr. Umney states that the scammonium now obtainable in the London market contains more than the 3 per cent. of ash, and he gives analyses of five samples all showing a higher resin-content than the B.P. amount (70 per cent.), but only one sample falls as low as 3.07 of ash; one went as high as 9.1, although it contained 74.7 per cent. of resin. He suggests, therefore, a greater allowance for ash.

## Scientific Progress.

**The Characters of Hydrogen.**—Lemoine, in a paper read before the Belgian Association of Chemists (*Bulletin*, November, 1899), gives the following as the physical characters of hydrogen in its three forms:—Solid: Density, 0.07; melting-point, 246.6°. Liquid: Density, 0.07 to 0.086; boiling-point, 233°; atomic volume, 14.3. Gaseous: Density, 0.55.

**A New Test for Diabetic Urine.**—Nitro-propiol tablets are a new reagent in compressed form, destined to be used in the place of Fehling's solution for the testing of diabetic urine. An indigo-blue colour is developed, or eventually indigo is precipitated. The reaction is—  

$$2C_6H_4(NO_2)C \cdot CCOOH + 2H_2 = C_{10}H_{10}N_2O_2 + 2CO_2 + 2H_2O.$$
*—Zeit. für Pharmacie*, 1899, 36.

**Racemic Compounds.**—A paper of the highest importance to theoretical chemistry on the resolution of racemic compounds into their optically active isomers appears in the *Berichte* (32, 2130), by Marekwald and Mackenzie. Pasteur showed that there were three comparatively simple methods by which racemic compounds could be separated, in part at least, into their optically active constituents—viz., (1) mechanical separation of the bodies, based upon differences in crystalline form; (2) biological separation, dependent on the destruction or degradation of one of the bodies by a selective affinity of a given ferment; (3) the combination of a racemic base or acid with an optically active acid or base, by which means only one salt was formed. Such bodies as ammonium tartrate, synthetic sugars, and conine are examples of these methods. The paper under notice provides a fourth method, depending upon the difference in the rapidity of esterification (etherification). As an example the compound phenyl-glycolic acid,  $C_6H_5.CHOH.COOH$ , was esterified with menthol. The levorotatory form of the acid forms an ester much more slowly than the dextrorotatory form. In the same way saponification (hydrolysis) takes place with different degrees of rapidity. A mixture of the completely esterified racemic form of the acid first yields a dextrorotatory product and afterwards a levorotatory acid. This method should prove of great value in chemical research.

**Recent Researches on the Thyroid Gland.**—Three important papers on recent researches on this important body have quite recently appeared—(1) by Oswald (*Zeit. f. Phys. Chemie*, xxvii., 14), (2) by Roos (*Zeit. f. Phys. Chemie*, xxviii., 40), and (3) by Lépineis (inaugural thesis, Paris, 1899). After the discovery by Baumann, in 1895, of an organic compound of iodine in the thyroid gland, two questions of vital interest arose: In what form does the iodine exist? Is iodothyrene the true active principle of the gland? Oswald and Roos attempt to definitely answer these two questions. Oswald triturates the gland with fine sand, and then repeatedly macerates with 0.75 per cent. solution of common salt. He states that the whole of the iodine passes into solution. Albuminoids were precipitated with phosphotungstic acid and the liquid filtered. No trace of iodine could be found in the filtrate; hence *all* the iodine is present in an organic combination. A portion of the saline extract was treated with ammonium sulphate to fractionally precipitate. Two groups were obtained, one containing iodine but no phosphorus, the other containing phosphorus but no iodine. The former is very insoluble in water, but easily soluble in salt solution or in alkalis. The chief constituent is a globulin, which Oswald terms thyroglobuline, and it is this body which contains the iodine. Oswald's analysis gives 1.66 per cent. of iodine in this compound, and 1.86 per cent. of sulphur. The somewhat absurd suggestion is made of a molecular weight of 8,000. The body containing phosphorus is a nucleine, which he terms nucleoproteid. Iodothyrene, prepared from the thyroglobuline by Baumann's process, was found to contain 14.29 per cent. of iodine. One of the best-defined physiological actions of the thyroid gland is the increased elimination of nitrogen in the urine, and, taking this as their criterion, both Oswald and Roos come to the conclusion that thyroglobuline exercises the same influence on the organism as the thyroid gland, and that this is the only body in the gland which possesses this specific action. Lépineis shows that whilst oxydases are absent, the thyroid gland contains anæroxydases, the other group of soluble ferments.

**DRUG-TRADE IN MEXICO.**—In the city of Mexico there are twelve wholesale and retail druggists, two of whom have factories for making acids and chemicals. There are several chemists, the principal being Germans and Mexicans, but in many of the large druggists' establishments a responsible "professor of chemistry" appointed by the Board of Health is always on hand. Of manufacturers of fancy soaps and perfumery there are five, whose products are said to be a close imitation of European marks.

"THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is a trade journal of unsurpassable quality, and quite indispensable to any man who wishes to keep in the front rank of his somewhat heretofore business" (51/90).



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

#### Liquor Bismuthi.

SIR,—Whilst fully recognising the exhaustive manner in which Messrs. Cowley and Catford have treated the subject of liquor bismuthi in their recent paper, may I be allowed to point out that in a paper by myself on the same subject, read at the Plymouth Conference, and published in your report of that meeting, and in the *Year-book of Pharmacy* (page 451), I described a method by which the loss of bismuth due to unneutralised nitric acid may be minimised, and the presence of oxynitrate, rendering the precipitated citrate partly insoluble, may be prevented? For this method I claim the advantages of more simplicity in manipulation and less departure from the B.P. directions, as well as priority of publication, over the method devised by these gentlemen.

Yours faithfully,

55 Northumberland Street, FRANK R. DUDDERIDGE.  
Newcastle-on-Tyne, January 1.

#### Wholesale Dispensing.

SIR,—There is no doubt that the system of prescribing advertised specialities is doing the physicians no good and depriving the chemists of legitimate profit. As a chemist I will have little to say about the dispenser's side of the question, or I may be accused of being an interested party. I do not know who "Xrayser" may be [Which has nothing whatever to do with the matter.—ED.] but should not be surprised (if we could examine his interior) to find him more interested in the advertisers than the subscribers to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST [Wrong.—ED.]. It is but human nature to know on which side the bread is buttered, and I know he will pardon me for not going deeper than what appears on the surface.

Anyone who has stood behind a chemist's counter for twenty years can tell you what patients pay their guineas for—viz., confidence and faith in the prescriber. They think they will get some advice which they cannot get from advertisements; that each particular doctor knows something which the other doctor does not; and I may go further still and say that they think they are taking some special remedy prescribed for their particular complaint. What must be their dismay when they find out that they are taking the same common or garden stuff which they have perhaps taken before, or have been recommended by a friend, to be got at the Stores 6*d.* size for 4½*d.* A woman would never forget that guinea, and might possibly change her physician.

What would "Xrayser" say if, after paying his guinea and wasting his time and train-fare from the country, his medical man told him to go and get dosed with some proprietary compound about which he probably knows more than the doctor? If the doctors are not alive to their own interests nothing chemists say will convince them; but it is positively amusing to see how they give themselves away by gratuitous advertising.

A speciality firm want to push a remedy: the first thing they do is to sample the doctors. The medical man gives the stuff to the patient, who then knows as much as the doctor. On the principle of what is good for me must suit anybody else with the same symptoms, the patient recommends the medicine to all her friends. Why go to the doctor? Then the doctor is soft enough to write a testimonial, which in due time appears in the advertisement in the daily paper. If the same remedy had first been brought out honestly as a patent medicine, and advertised to the public, the same doctor would pronounce it quackery.

The doctors often complain of chemists prescribing. Well,

all I can say is that I should think they are just as capable of reading an advertisement and acting on it. To go further still, when the wholesale dispensing-caterers have got all this knowledge and recommendation by the faculty and retailers have refused to deal in profitless articles, why should not the manufacturer start a store in each town and boldly advertise his remedies for certain diseases, putting in bold lines "As prescribed by the following Members of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons"? My opinion is that these should not be called prescriptions, but remedies to be obtained at reduced prices at the stores. Then when the public become educated to the proper remedies to buy, they will cease to employ the chemist or the doctor.

Yours faithfully,

Hereford, January 2.

J. J. JACKSON.

#### What are Poisons?

SIR.—In your issue of December 16 you say: "Aqua chlor. and spt. chlor. are preparations of chloroform, and as such cannot be retailed by unqualified persons."

I beg to dispute this ruling, which would compel us to label these articles "Poison." Preparations of chloroform are certainly not named in the original schedule, nor in the additions which have been made to it. If "chloroform" includes preparations containing it, why are *any* preparations named in the schedule? And why are some articles in Part I., and preparations of the same in Part II.?

It may, perhaps, be argued that spt. chlor. and aq. chlor. actually contain chloroform, whereas preparations of belladonna, &c., only extract a portion of the drug. Then why was it needful to add preparations of morphine to the schedule, seeing that salts of morphine were already included?

I am aware that in one case (I think it was the chlorodyne case) it was laid down that in selling an article containing a poison you are selling a poison. But that case was complicated by the fact that chlorodyne contains two poisons, of which the morphine alone would bring it within the enlarged schedule. If chloroform had been the only poison present I venture to think the decision would have been different, unless the case was badly defended.

Apart from the above argument, there is another point worth mention. I think it was in the same case that one Judge remarked the quantity of poison might be so small that the maxim would apply, *De minimis non curat lex*. Surely this minimum has been reached in the case of aqua chlor. 1898, as well as in the L.L.C. lozenges.

Yours truly,

Amptill, December 26, 1899.

JAMES BROWN.

[In the very first case under the Pharmacy Act (the sale of a mixture of prussic acid and rose-water) it was held by Mr. Justice Lush that, although it was neither "prussic acid" nor "a preparation of prussic acid," it was a poison, and this judgment had considerable influence upon Mr. Justice Lawrence and Mr. Justice Henn Collins in the 1893 chlorodyne case, when they held that sale of the poison pure and simple was not solely implied by the Act. It is true that in the licorine case Mr. Justice Charles and Mr. Justice Wright had the opportunity of applying the principle *de minimis non curat lex* (as mentioned by Mr. Justice Henn Collins). In that case there was no attempt to prove how much morphia was in the article sold. This is the case which supports Mr. Brown's contention, but in view of the prior decisions it is a safe rule to go upon that none but qualified persons may keep open shop for retailing and dispensing articles containing scheduled poisons. That is clearly the intention of the Act. We did not specifically refer to labelling. On that point retailers may well rely upon the opinion of the Privy Council given in 1869, which we may quote for the guidance of those who are not familiar with it:—

"My Lords, having given their best consideration to the subject, are of opinion that the 'preparation' of a poison in the Pharmacy Act, 1868, means a compound which, like the poison of which it is a preparation, is in itself deadly or dangerous, and that it does not mean a compound which is in itself perfectly harmless, although into its composition may enter a poison, or the preparation of a poison, which taken alone would be dangerous or deadly. My Lords apprehend that questions of fact must be dealt with as they arise; for it is possible to take so much of a compound perfectly harmless if taken in reasonable quantities (e.g., carbonate of soda) as to destroy life, and it is possible that a particular paregoric lozenge might contain a deadly amount of poison; but it seems to their Lordships that, for general purposes, and as matter of legal interpretation, these extreme and barely



supposable cases may be disregarded, and that the Pharmaceutical Society may safely act upon the test given above.

"My Lords, however, are advised that it is not feasible to define the precise proportion of poison in any preparation which may bring it within the Act."

This is good advice for qualified persons to act upon; the State has arranged that *their* judgment shall be of a certain standard, but unqualified persons are not recognised.—En.]

#### Fictionists and Journalists.

SIR,—It is long since I came to the conclusion that the pharmacist's case is being terribly prejudiced in the eye of the public by fictionists and journalists. I do not, however, see what good end could be served by legal prosecution. You cannot very well institute legal proceedings against a man for a general charge hurled at the heads of a class. If that had been possible, we would have prosecuted some of the more ungentlemanly and vulgar drug-stores men long ago. The statements they have made regarding chemists as a class have been an offence against the laws of justice and morality; but if the chemists in a district were to bring an action against these men, they would deny that they referred to the chemists of any special locality. On the other hand, if the Pharmaceutical Society were to prosecute in the name of all registered men, these persons would very likely be able to hunt up some poor beggar in a back street who conducted his business in such a manner as to give some show of justification for the insulting advertisements which have been published. This is the more likely as the Pharmaceutical Society has no power to purge the register. In short, the contemptibleness and shabbiness of these innuendos consist in the fact that we have no redress. Perhaps the greatest injustice done to qualified men has been the illegal admission by back-door paths of uneducated quacks to a sphere of operation in the scientific world which ought to have been confined—and was meant to be confined—in the interests of the public and in the interests of justice, to educated men. I affirm that the presence of the uneducated men, with their vulgar methods of doing business, in the field of pharmacy is a greater offence to qualified men than the pecuniary importance of their presence can ever be.

With fictionists and journalists the case is altogether different. These men do not asperse our characters out of malice, but simply out of pure thoughtlessness. The average writer of the present day (especially in the world of fiction) is conspicuously barren of original ideas, with the result that he is forced to fall back on the ideas of the writers of a past age, who appear to have lived when intelligence was at a fuller tide in the literary world. These old writers wrote of the dealers in snails and oil of human skulls of their day with contempt—and rightly so—but the writers of the present day ought to bear in mind that pharmacists of to-day have to qualify themselves for their duties to the community by passing examinations which many who are posing in the literary world never would have passed if they had tried half a lifetime. With fictionists it is a sheer case of follow-my-leader, and if we could turn the stream in our favour as it is now turned against us, it would flow merrily on just the same. In the world of fiction there is not at the present time being produced one ounce of original matter in every ton of rubbish published. The case of the journalists is different. For one thing, they have to produce copy at such high pressure, in order that sixty or eighty columns of matter may be ready for the press every morning, that we can hardly expect their productions to be characterised by thought; and, for another thing, there can be no doubt that unqualified quacks are of more value to them, from an advertising point of view, than honourable qualified men.

Now, where is the remedy? Well, I think that you, Sir, might either write yourself or get written a short, concise statement of real facts, and send a copy to each prominent fictionist of the present day, and also, as far as possible, to the prominent newspaper editors. It would be necessary to give a *précis* of the Pharmacy Act and the reason for its existence, of the character of the examinations passed by chemists before registration, of the functions of a chemist in a community, of the difference between a chemist of to-day and a dealer in drugs of a century ago. Then it would be necessary to give a short outline of the battle we are fighting with unqualified men, and what has led to it; of the serious way in which our case has been prejudiced by fictionists and

journalists who have not studied the subject. Finally, it would be only right to call upon these men, in the interests of justice, to either leave our case alone altogether, or put themselves to the trouble to learn something about the subject connected with us before they make vile attacks on us and our calling to fill in the blanks which their own intelligences leave in their MS.

I have never heard of this man Anstey, but it ought to be plain to him that his statement is the statement of a person who opens his mouth to speak before he thinks, when he speaks of a chemist as if he were a common swindler, and at the same time taunts him for being a struggler. If the chemist is a struggler, how can he be a swindler? One thing ought to be plain to Mr. Anstey—viz., that unless he and many others are prepared to offer a higher form of justice to chemists than they have done so far, they will have to take their medicines from the hands of a much inferior class of dispensers. It will be utterly impossible to maintain the present standard of examination, and the present grade of efficiency amongst chemists, if the people cannot be led to treat them with more consideration.

Dumfries, December 26, 1899.

JAMES REID.

#### How Lin. Camph. is Made.

SIR,—I notice a most remarkable excuse given by chemist-defendants in the recent prosecutions for selling lin. camph. deficient in strength—viz., that evaporation had taken place on account of heating the oil to dissolve the camphor. The B.P. does not order heat at all; it simply orders "dissolve the camphor in the oil." Using flowers and stirring a few times with a stick, and keeping in a tin with a good lid, will, I should think, do away with many prosecutions. What is the use of a B.P. if chemists do not follow the directions? However, in this case the compilers might give a warning note [or make the directions read, "dissolve the camphor in the olive oil without the aid of heat."—ED.].

Yours faithfully,

NOMEN. (214/65.)

#### Reciprocity.

SIR,—I was much taken with your able article on "Reciprocity," and I should think the Society would soon begin to take some active steps to acknowledge it. It has a particular bearing on my own case, but I have been unable to get any satisfactory report from headquarters. I passed my examinations in Toronto, taking honours in *materia medica*, and, considering the severity of the examinations, only some 2 per cent. being successful, and since having lived in England at intervals, but now being settled in business I meet with unequalled-for restrictions. I have my diploma (of which I am justly proud), and it resembles the English one; but here I am qualified but unable to register, having passed my examinations in her Majesty's Dominion of Canada. Can this be called justice?

I remain, yours very sincerely,

CANADA. (217/22.)

#### Dispensers' Defence Union.

SIR,—The recent decision given by the General Medical Council *re* unqualified dispensers is a pretty sure indication that the Council will not interfere in anything that may be of vital importance to the welfare of the medical practitioner. It therefore should stimulate combined action of all qualified dispensers, both pharmaceutical and Hall. Just as all classes of medical men unite to form a Medical Defence Union, so should the qualified dispensers form a union on the same lines, and see that only qualified dispensing is done. The General Medical Council have set the ball going in prohibiting unqualified assistants for the public safety. I cannot see why unqualified dispensing to the danger of the public is allowed. As one is of as much vital importance as the other, I should be glad to join any Society with such an aim in view.

Yours faithfully,

QUALIFIED DISPENSER. (212/62.)

#### Dispensing Notes.

##### Hair-tonic.

SIR,—I have had the prescription as below for hair-tonic handed to me. I should be glad of any information through

your columns as to the best way of dispensing this, as I have not succeeded yet in making a presentable mixture of it.

Acid. salicyl. ...	...	...	2.00
Glycerin. ...	...	...	5.00
Spt. lavand. et spt. vin. gall. ...	...	...	20.00
Aq. ...	...	...	100.00

M.

Use locally daily.

Yours faithfully,

LAVENDER. (190/43.)

[It is difficult, if not impossible, to dispense this lotion as written; a semi-solid results. Though not permissible, a few grains of potassium citrate would make a clear solution. Probably some such "wrinkle" as this has been adopted by the previous dispenser.]

#### An Emp.-Menthol Query.

SIR.—A prescription for a menthol plaster 6 by 4 inches is handed in. What would you spread it on, and how? Is it not the general rule to use a warmed spatula for this purpose and to lay the plaster on emp. adhesiv., with a margin?

Yours, &c.,

MENTHARVEN. (198 13.)

[Opinions differ as to what should be used on which to spread the menthol plaster: some say leather, others adhesive plaster. Perhaps some of our readers will give their opinions.]

#### Solubility of Quinine Salts.

The following useful table, compiled by Messrs. Howards & Sons, Stratford, E., is good for dispensers to use. It shows the solubility and equivalent value of salts of quinine, and we print it for the benefit of those who have not already seen it:—

Name of Salt	Percentage of the Alkaloid in the Salt	Solubility in Cold Water	Amount equivalent in value to one of Quinine Sulphate
Sulphate ...	73.5 per cent.	In 800 parts	1.00
Hydrochlorate ...	81.8 "	" 40 "	0.9
* Bihydrochlorate ...	72.0 "	" 1 "	1.02
Hydrobromate ...	76.6 "	" 45 "	0.96
* Bihydrobromate ...	60.0 "	" 7 "	1.23
Bisulphate ...	59.1 "	" 11 "	1.24
Phosphate ...	76.2 "	" 420 "	0.96
Valerianate ...	73.0 "	" 110 "	1.01
* Lactate ...	78.2 "	" 10 "	0.94
Salicylate ...	70.1 "	" 225 "	1.05
* Hydrochloro-sulphate ...	74.3 "	" 2 "	0.99
Arseniate ...	69.4 "	slightly soluble	1.06
Tannate ...	20.0 "	" "	3.67

\* These are suitable for hypodermic injections.

The table is printed by Messrs. Howards & Sons in such a way that it can be hung up at the dispensing-counter.

#### Calamine-and-Lead Lotion.

SIR.—Will you please inform me of the best way to dispense the following, as I fail to make a presentable preparation of it after having tried various ways:—

Zinci oxid. ...	...	...	gr. xxx.
Calamini ...	...	...	gr. xxx.
Ol. olive ...	...	...	5ss.
Aq. calcis ...	...	...	5ss.
Liq. plumbi ...	...	...	5j.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	5xij.

M. Ft. lotio.

Sig.: Dab on the inflamed parts.

Yours truly,

SULPHOCYANIDE. (208.46.)

[We have failed to dispense this prescription satisfactorily. We will have another try, but meanwhile would be pleased if other dispensers would report their experience.]

#### Collodium Callosum.

SIR.—Can you give me any assistance in dispensing the following prescription?—

Ext. bellad. alcoh. ...	...	...	gr. x.
Ether. meth. ...	...	...	5ss.
Collodii ad ...	...	...	3j.

R. G. E. (187/74.)

[Ext. bellad. alcohol. cannot be dissolved in the ether and collodium. It would be better to consult the prescriber and obtain permission to use an equivalent quantity of the alkaloids.]

#### Legal Queries.

Before sending in a query for reply in this section see if the subject is not dealt with in "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1900, pages 212-226, and pages 259-262.

215/58. *Light*.—Although one of the Welsbach patents expired last month it is not the patent under which the mantles are now made. The patent in force was taken out in 1893, so that it has still seven years to run.

213 63. *Nemo*.—C. purchases for a valuable premium an under-lease of his business-premises, subject to a ground-rent. In the event of C. desiring to raise a loan by the deposit of lease with bank, would such deposit operate against the disposal of his business and the granting of a lease to his successor? [It should not if the matter is conducted in a businesslike manner by solicitors. The purchaser, or his solicitor, will see to it that he is sure of the lease before he buys the business.]

219,41. *Justice*.—If you have strong evidence that the assistant's abilities were much inferior to what you were led to expect through his testimonials, and that he became incapacitated for duty through tippling, his dismissal was justifiable; and as you paid him a sum named by himself, and presumably in presence of witnesses, he has no legal claim against you.

#### Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

229 26. *H. J.*—Arrangements for Supplying a Dispenser to Medical Men by local chemists vary considerably according to the relations between the medical man and the chemist. In some places no charge is made for the use of a dispenser for an hour a day twice a week or so, while in others the dispenser's services for a private firm of medical practitioners may be charged at the rate of 2s. for a single hour, 3s. for two hours, and 1s. 3d. for each additional hour per day. You may find it necessary to modify the charges to suit your own case, but you will find it better for yourself in the long run not to make any charge at all rather than to give your dispenser's services at too cheap a rate.

211/72. *Anxious*.—The best preparation for sticking labels on sheep's or calves' backs is a thin form of Venice turpentine.

211 53. *Nomen*.—Refer to THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1898, page 269, for detailed information on filtration.

218/74. *Mizpah*.—Palmitate of aluminium is insoluble in water.

219/11. *H. J.*—You will find Guttmann's work on explosives, published by Whittaker, give you the best information in regard to the manufacture of explosives.

209,8. *S. H.*—It does not need a special ink for stylographic pens; all that is wanted is a thin, clean ink, which all good writing-inks should be.



131/35. *Canine*.—The application for improving the coat of a dog by forcing the growth, &c., is not easy to get at by analysis, but the following is the best we can make of it :—

Balsam of sulphur ... ..	3i.
Oil of turpentine ... ..	3i.
Dissolve, and add—	
Best paraffin oil ... ..	3ij.
In a mortar rub together—	
Precipitated sulphur ... ..	3iss.
Ethiop's mineral ... ..	9j.

To this add the oily mixture gradually and with constant stirring.

Adjust the quantity of Ethiop's mineral to give you the proper grey tint.

189/67. *A. B.*—(1) Potassium or ammonium sulphocyanide and potassium ferrieyanide and ferrocyanide are not considered poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act. (2) **Combined Toning and Fixing Bath**.—We do not seem to have given this formula lately, so repeat it :—

Sodium hyposulphite ... ..	20 oz.
Citric acid ... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Lead acetate... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Ammonium sulphocyanide ..	2 oz.
Warm water ... ..	80 oz.
Dissolve, filter bright, and add—	
Gold chloride ... ..	12 gr.

It is better to let the solution stand for a week before adding the gold. (3) **Platinum Toning-bath**.—Potassium chloroplatinite is the salt used in platinum toning-baths. There are formulas in the *C. & D.* May 20, 1899, page 833. and July 1, 1899, page 34.

185/7. *Nemo* forwards us a few large crystals which he has found at the bottom of a Winchester-quart bottle in which for years lavender-water has been made. The crystals are sulphite of soda, and have probably been accidentally introduced into the bottle, as none of the usual ingredients of lavender-water would yield them.

161/57. *Resin*.—We have your sample in hand, and will report soon.

170/50. *In Vino Veritas*.—(1) There is no standard work on the manufacture of soluble essences other than "Pharmaceutical Formulas." (2) "Solution of salicylic acid 1 in 2" is made by dissolving the acid in saturated solution of potassium acetate. There is a recipe for a weaker solution in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 295. The solution does not contain free salicylic acid, but potassium salicylate. (3) **Heading for Beverages**.—See "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 234; or *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, 1900, page 518.

196/24. *J. G.*—The "crystalline substance" you send is apparently a sample of quartz. It can be of no possible general interest for us to identify it.

166/94. *Zeta*.—We cannot recall a process for drying carboic acid which will not either volatilise or decompose the phenol.

138/62. *A. B.*—Whilst confirming all the ingredients you name in the staining-fluid, we cannot detect any others in quantities of any account.

166/11. *R. C. T.*—Ung. belladonnæ, B.P. 1898, is approximately twice the strength of the ointment official in the 1885 Pharmacopœia. Mr. J. C. Umney pointed this out in the *C. & D.*, May 28, 1898, page 890.

176/40. *Ephemer* is beguiled by the speciousness of a gentleman in fur overcoat who sells a rheumatic cure in the market-place to believe that the remedy depends for its virtues on "some synthetic drugs." The mixture appears to be a gold-mine to the seller, but is not a sample of good pharmacy. It consists of a decoction of liquorice-juice preserved with spirit of chloroform, and is medicated with nitrate of potash.

179/40. *W. E. G.*—(1) The patent for incandescent mantles has still seven years to run. The "Sunlight" mantle is the only other incandescent mantle which can at present legally be sold. (2) The liquid you send for spraying mantles is the subject of a patent, so that it could not be for the general good to be able to make it considering the legal risks which would be incurred.

4/11. *Gloster*.—(1) The paste for dyeing the hair is not henna. If you could get a larger supply we might further examine it; from the tests we have applied it seems to be mainly sulphides of bismuth and copper. (2) **The Massage-paste** is a mixture of lanoline and a small proportion of oxide of zinc.

164/65. *Hants*.—(1) It is one of the properties of freshly varnished surfaces to "bloom" when moisture condenses on them. As the varnish ages the peculiarity disappears. (2) The colouring of lavender-salts is managed by adding a solution of phenylene and methylene blues, that combination being permanent in ammoniacal solution. Other colours for smelling-salts are given by various aniline dyes selected on account of their permanence in the presence of ammonia.

197/4. *Mizpah*.—(1) The acidity of varnish would be best neutralised by the addition of calamine or lead carbonate. (2) The same neutralising-agent would do for the perfume-oils used in the varnish.

200/22. *S. W.*—The tonic powder for cattle which your local veterinary surgeon prepares is mainly gentian, anise, and liquorice. The powder does not seem to be of sufficient interest to warrant us spending much time on analysing it.

205/22. *S. H. & S.*—You can get "cleaning"-spirit like your sample from Messrs. Carless, Capel & Leonard, Hackney Wick, N.E.

215/31. *Buffer*.—We were talking to a man the other day who started in business a few years ago with 50%, and is now doing 50% a week. One thing he did not do, which you have done—he did not consult us about it. He relied upon himself, went hard at work, pushed things, incurred many liabilities, and struggled until he got rid of them, so that now he is at the top. He went right into deep water at first, and he had to swim or sink. The place which you describe seems to be of the shallow kind, with prospects of better conditions, and your ideas of success are not high. These are elements which usually attend the plodder, who rarely fails and never succeeds in making much at it. So before you make up your mind to start you must also be determined to go right ahead. That seems to us the requirement most necessary in your case.

231/25. *Norfold*.—(1) The Neuralgia-mixture requires the addition of 10 minims of acid. hydrochlor. dil. to make it permanent. There is a slight separation of resin from the tincture of gelsemium, which may be got rid of by filtration. All quinine-mixtures with iron are the better for being set aside for a month or so before bottling, in order that they may deposit fully, but with sufficient free acid the deposition-process may be shortened to some extent. (2) **Lanoline** may be emulsified by the addition of 10 gr. to 15 gr. of powdered white soap to each drachm of lanoline. Mix the lanoline and soap well together in a warm mortar, then gradually add the lukewarm water to emulsify. An ounce of lanoline may in this way be made a pourable mixture with 3 to 4 oz. of water according to the season of the year. (3) **Mixture for Cold**.—The following is safe and satisfactory for general use :—

Liq. ammon. acet. ... ..	3ij.
Spt. æth. nit. ... ..	5vj.
Tr. chlorof. co. (B.P. 1885)... ..	3iss.
Aq. ad ... ..	5viij.

M.

Dose for adults: A small teaspoonful every half-hour for four doses, then every two hours until perspiration ensues.

The above mixture is suitable only when the patient can keep to bed. If he wishes to go about his business in the usual way, good a remedy is ammoniated tincture of quinine, or, what is ordered in many cases, a solution of 1 scruple

quinine sulph. in 2 oz. spt. æth. nit. Of the latter, a small teaspoonful in a wineglass of water may be taken every three hours.

207/13. *Lithium*.—Cider is fined with either isinglass or stewed and mashed apples. A usual quantity of isinglass for a cask of cider is 1 oz. The isinglass, of which special kinds are sold for the purpose, is swollen by soaking in cider before adding to the cask of cider.

212/27. *Jacko*.—(1) To powder soap it is necessary that it be quite dry. The drying is managed by cutting the soap into thin slices and exposing it to a warm temperature for some days. You will see the kind of drying-cupboard required in the 1898 DIARY, page 264. (2) We do not know what powdering-mill to recommend you, as we do not know the scale you are going to operate on. The 1898 DIARY figures many kinds of mills.

31/19. *W. L.*—The sample which you send us is a piece of quartz.

207/60. *Apprentice*.—Ordinary piano-wire may be coated lightly with tin, as was pointed out in this journal many years ago by Mr. William Gilman, and if used for making iron preparations, these preparations will be contaminated with tin. The Pharmacopœia now prescribes an annealed-iron wire or wrought-iron nails.

209/66. *Warts*.—The following paste answers well for removing flat warty growths from cattle:—

Zinci chlor. ... ..	...	...	) equal parts
Acid. arsenios. ... ..	...	...	
Theriacal ... ..	...	...	

Customers should be impressed with the importance of preparing the surface of warts by washing with strong alkaline fluids (containing soap-extract or common soda), when the paste is more effectual. Caution must be exercised in the sale of such a potent remedy as the above.

193/13. *Beta* sends a powder which is used, when dissolved in water, for sprinkling over burning coal in order to produce less smoke and insure perfect combustion. The powder is common salt coloured blue. Salt at high temperatures is partly volatilised and partly decomposed, but it is difficult to see how such a property assists in gaining the end sought. It is also difficult to believe that there are people in the world who would go to the trouble of constantly sprinkling the fire with a salt solution. Half the enjoyment of a winter evening would be lost to the person whose duty it was to attend to the fire.

### Information Wanted.

214/69. (1) Name of firm of glass-bottle makers whose trade mark or brand is a trident. (2) Name of maker of jute bags for cattle-food who also prints the bags.

217/12. Address of makers of "Fosfatina Fallières."

## Postcard Competitions.

### C. & D. Diary.

THE competition for home-subscribers is closed, and will be reported on as soon as possible. Colonial and foreign subscribers may post their cards up to January 31.

FOR JANUARY.

We resume our postcard competitions with a patriotic subject which gives our pharmaceutical poets opportunity of exercising their talents. The War Office wanted forty volunteer-compounders to go to South Africa to assist the regulars in the Royal Army Medical Corps. The applications from young men connected with pharmacy poured in so rapidly and numerous, that within three days the number who volunteered was not far short of a thousand. This is the theme which we ask our poets to celebrate in song. We shall be glad if our subscribers and any of their families and staffs will write on postcards verses not exceeding 200 words. We shall award a guinea for the best verse. The shorter the verses are the better. January 22 will be the last day for receiving the cards.

## London Drug Statistics.

THE following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses from January 1 to December 31, 1899, and to the stocks on December 31. Their accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

	December		Stocks		1899	
	Landed	Delivd.	1899	1898	Imp'd.	Delivd.
Aloes ..... es &c.	392	192	2,664	2,760	1,982	2,081
" ..... gourdls	—	55	—	1,720	2,269	3,989
Anise, star ..... es	—	6	56	5	263	212
Balsam .... esks &c.	7	66	424	375	1,432	1,383
Calumba-root ..... bgs	7	68	225	536	1,166	1,477
Camphor ..... pkgs	204	547	1,779	5,894	6,823	9,947
Cardamoms ..... es &c.	284	249	1,710	1,262	4,781	4,340
Cinchona ..... pkgs	1,496	1,344	16,099	19,991	19,417	23,308
Cubebis ..... bgs	—	30	1,744	1,843	127	226
Dragon's-blood ..... es	14	24	125	47	293	215
Galls ..... pkgs	181	533	1,699	2,981	6,640	7,932
Gums—						
Ammoniacum ..	—	3	71	64	31	68
Animi & copal ..	1,934	2,277	10,623	14,623	35,432	39,036
Arabic ..... es	2,161	1,904	11,672	11,373	21,511	16,889
Asafetida ..... "	25	69	703	290	1,581	1,168
Benzoin ..... "	123	309	930	2,144	1,989	3,203
Damar ..... "	33	288	4,291	3,142	6,267	5,105
Galbanum ..... "	—	—	—	—	—	14
Gamboge ..... "	—	10	308	383	192	277
Guaiacon ..... "	7	20	54	65	111	115
Kauri ..... tons	277	253	1,650	615	4,681	3,641
Kino ..... pkgs	—	1	45	66	92	113
Mastic ..... "	—	—	6	30	28	36
Myrrh, E. I. .... "	18	20	310	409	261	387
Olibanum ..... "	10	374	1,699	2,507	4,878	6,546
Sandalac ..... "	114	83	411	752	1,094	1,425
Tragacanth ..... "	442	929	1,036	1,485	8,853	9,302
Ipecacuanha, Rio bls	72	41	202	158	641	597
" other kinds pkgs	64	18	116	43	419	328
Jalap ..... bls	—	9	310	303	160	153
Nux vomica ..... pkgs	—	103	13	136	872	1,544
Oils—						
Anise ..... es	—	3	187	277	123	213
Cassia ..... "	—	—	74	24	43	45
Castor ..... pkgs	148	219	966	708	1,672	2,370
Cocoa-nut ..... tons	136	40	292	201	1,389	1,296
Olive ..... esks &c.	182	132	1,037	549	1,095	2,401
Palm ..... tons	—	3	6	7	39	38
Quinine sulph. .... lbs	12,573	2,665	174,566	112,249	123,320	61,003
Rhubarb ..... elts	97	84	1,300	1,627	1,110	1,437
Sarsaparilla ..... bales	23	114	297	366	1,139	1,208
Senna ..... bls &c.	1,072	528	1,630	1,212	4,459	4,043
Shellac, all kinds es	2,220	2,727	41,599	49,068	45,955	53,424
Turmeric ..... tons	16	24	159	153	369	415
Wax, bees' ..... pkgs	372	359	1,531	1,299	5,732	5,876
" Japan ..... es &c.	42	91	50	533	919	783

\* Stocks of aniseed and cassia oils lying at Smith's Wharf and Brewer's Quay are not included in this return.

† Includes the quantity at Red Lion, Bull, and Smith's Wharves; also the Docks.

NOTE.—According to the above figures there is now no gourd aloes in the public warehouses, and as no arrivals have taken place for some months the article is not likely to be cheaper yet awhile. The stock of aloes in cases has also slightly decreased, and is the lowest for the past six years. Increased imports of cinchona and less demand have slightly augmented the stock, which, however, is about 4,000 packages lower than last year. The camphor stock is low compared with 1898, and the deliveries are also slightly less. Cardamoms arrived more freely last month, and the stock is now large; the demand, however, remains good, and prices have been sustained. Calumba was also in better demand last month, and stock is low. Cubebis are not likely to revive while such a large stock exists. There is plenty of dragon's-blood in the warehouse, but the bulk is medium drop. A noticeable feature in the statistics is the abnormally low stock of all kinds of benzoin gum; the deliveries were greatly in excess of the imports. The article has met a moderate demand throughout the month, and at the moment the arrivals are not coming along too freely to warrant a decline at present. The turnover of gum tragacanth in 1899 breaks the record, nearly 10,000 cases leaving the public warehouses; prices throughout have been on a higher level. The demand for Rio ipecacuanha has eased off, judging from statistics; stock is 31 bales more than in December. The exclusion of Cartagena from the B.P. has had no effect whatever upon this description. As a matter of fact the deliveries and importations are greatly in excess of previous years. There is a stock of 2,793,056 oz. quinine in the warehouses, compared with 1,795,984 oz. last year, due for the most part to increased importations, which for the twelve months of 1899 were 1,973,120 oz. against 1,032,368 oz. in 1898.



## Trade Report.

**NOTICE TO BUYERS.**—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: January 4.

UNTIL the end of the week it is hardly possible to form a decided opinion as to the course which business in the drug and chemical markets is likely to assume this month. Meanwhile, there has been a fair inquiry for quinine, the second-hand price of which is quite  $\frac{3}{4}d.$  per oz. dearer than at the close of our last report. German refined camphor has been advanced by  $1d.$  per lb.; but English refiners do not intend to follow this lead at present. Another advance in salicylates has been talked of, but nothing has been done so far. Ergot of rye is decidedly dearer, and several tons have changed hands. The next drug-sales will be held on January 18. Other movements of the week are as under:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Acid, boracic	Acid, carbolic	Acid, tartaric	Ammonia
Borax	Alcohol	Copper	sulphate
Camphor	Ginger (Jap.)	sulphate	Oil, cod liver
(Germ.)	Oil, castor	Oil, bergamot	
Ergot of rye	Oil, linseed	Sassafras	
Oil, turpentine	Oil, turpentine	Tin crystals	
Quinine	Pepper, black		

### Arrivals.

The following drugs, &c., have arrived at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from December 21 to January 3, both inclusive:—Aloes (Cape), 80; aniseed (Russ.), 104; aniseed oil, 50; annatto, 8; areca nuts, 100; asafetida, 263; benzoin, 73; buchu, 19; cardamoms, 325; castor oil, 696; cinchona, 445; cod-liver oil, 385; colocynth, 8; camphor (Jap.) 73; citronella oil, 41; civet, 1; cocaine (crude), 9; cocoa-butter, 116; ergot of rye (Span.), 13; gum arabic, 164; iodine, 25; lime-juice (W.I.), 275; gum olibanum, 62; opium, 51; orris, 44; quicksilver, 100; sarsaparilla, 14; sassafras-root, 40; scammonium, 5; senna, 451; soy, 611; tamarinds (E.I.), 175; vanilla, 55.

### Jamaican Exports.

A Colonial Office report on the trade of Jamaica for 1898-99 has been issued this week, and although it runs to seventy-six pages it is lacking in interest to the drug-trade. It does not even give figures relating to the exports of lime-juice, annatto, beeswax, and honey, but merely remarks that small decreases occurred in these articles, they being known as "minor products." The exports of Jamaican ginger increased by 2,624 cwt., the figures being 15,197 cwt. (43,374*l.*), against 12,573 cwt. (34,884*l.*) in 1897-98. During the past decade values have more than doubled. The average price in Jamaica was 57*s.* 1*d.* per cwt., against 55*s.* 6*d.* in 1897-98. Pimento also shows the considerable increase of 39,111 cwt., the figures showing that 77,939 cwt. were exported in 1898-99, against 38,828 cwt. in 1897-98. The local average value was 32*s.* 9*d.* per cwt., against 27*s.* 3*d.* in 1897-98, and this abnormally high figure was one of the salient features of the year, the value rising to a greater figure than it ever attained since 1880. The Governor of the island also reports that owing to the rise in quinine and cinchona at the beginning of 1899 an inquiry was held into the present conditions of the cinchona plantations, and the practicability of manufacturing quinine locally, as in India. The result, however, was doubtful as

to whether the bark could be harvested for sale at a profit.

### Vanilla-duty Reduced.

With the idea of fostering the vanilla trade, the French Government have resolved to reduce the present duty on importations from Tahiti and its dependencies into France by 50 per cent. This applies to the extent of the first 10,000 kilos.

### The Camphor-monopoly in Formosa.

It may be too early yet to say what will be the result of the Japanese camphor-monopoly, which came into force in August, but reports on the subject from Formosa are certainly not of a very hopeful character. Indeed, an article in the *Osaka asahi* talks of the "failure of the monopoly," and attributes it to a decrease in the production of camphor, owing to the menaces of the aborigines, and, secondly, to dishonest manufacturers representing that camphor sold by them was manufactured and the tax paid upon it before the monopoly came into force. The latter statement, however, seems rather lame, but if true it would point to laxity on the part of the officials in charge of the Bureau. The sales at the principal markets in Formosa during August and September have not exceeded 100,000 catties. "If this state of things continues," says the journal, "the total sales for a year will probably not reach half the official estimate."

### Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for market-centres other than London.]

There are no changes of special moment to record in the heavy-chemical market this week, but business has not yet settled down to its normal condition after the holidays. The general demand is a very fair one, and this, together with the fact that many works are taking this opportunity of attending to necessary repairs to plant, keeps stock small. Prices all round are well maintained.

**ALKALI PRODUCE.**—Demand for bleaching power and caustic soda keeps good. Ammonia alkali firm, and in fair request. Other products remain practically in the same position as lately reported.

**SULPHATE OF AMMONIA** is weaker again, and has declined about 5*s.* per ton. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 406 tons.

**SOUTH DURHAM SALT** in demand, and very firm at 10*s.* per ton, f.o.b. Tees.

**SULPHATE OF COPPER** is somewhat easier at 24*l.* 5*s.*; Liverpool, 25*l.* 10*s.*

**BICHROMATES** are still in a very uncertain position, and are very scarce for prompt, and much higher figures are being asked by holders.

**GREEN COPPERAS** is moving well at 42*s.* to 43*s.* per ton for best Lancashire makes, f.o.b. Liverpool; and Welsh remains at 13*s.* to 14*s.* per ton, free on rails in bulk.

**TIN CRYSTALS.**—Easier, at 9½*d.* to 10*d.* per lb.

### Liverpool Market.

Liverpool, January 3.

**CASTOR OIL.**—The market is decidedly firmer for both Calcutta and French, the values for good seconds and first-pressure French respectively being 21½*d.* and 2½*d.* per lb.

**AFRICAN GINGER.**—Several tons have sold at 28*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., and not much more available at this figure.

**IRISH MOSS** is scarce. Common quality is quoted 9*s.*, and medium 13*s.* per cwt.

**HONEY.**—No further arrivals. About 140 barrels Chilean have been sold at 21*s.* 6*d.* to 22*s.* per cwt. for Pile III, 24*s.* 6*d.* to 25*s.* for Pile I, and a few barrels Pile X, at 30*s.* 6*d.* Stocks at the end of December were 790 barrels Chilean, and 50 cases Californian.

**BALSAM COPAIBA.**—There have been no arrivals, and the market is quite bare. Fresh supplies are expected shortly per Brunswick.

**PENGUEEK-SEEDS.**—Over 400 bags have arrived. Morocco and Egyptian are both offering at 7*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

**CHILLIES** offer at 45*s.* and 57*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

**CALABAR BEANS.**—The remaining stocks are held for extreme prices.

**GUM ARABIC.**—Limits of Brazilian have been reduced, and a sale of 28 bags has been made at 19*s.* per cwt.

**WAX, BEES'.**—Chilian has sold at 7*l.* 10*s.* to 7*l.* 15*s.* per cwt., but up to 8*l.* is now wanted.

**SPERMACETI.**—North American has been advanced from 1*s.* 5*d.* to 1*s.* 3½*d.* per lb.

**WAX, CARNAUBA.**—Stocks are now low, and prices have advanced. Sales consist of about 90 bags ordinary Ceara and gray Pernambuco at 44*s.* 6*d.* to 45*s.* per cwt., with small lots of medium and yellow at 50*s.* to 70*s.* respectively.

TARAXACUM is very scarce; 35s. per cwt., c.i.f., now being wanted for whole root, and 37s. to 38s. for cut.

WAHOO-BARK is extremely scarce, as much as 10*d.* per lb. c.i.f. being wanted by one holder. The spot market is practically cleared.

## From the Land of the Celestial.

A BOEHM-MÖLLER MIXTURE.

THE capabilities of the Jap in the imitation of things European is proverbial. He supplies the Chinese and other Eastern markets with all sorts of European goods which never saw the Atlantic Ocean. Here is one very barefaced example of this ingenuity, which is calculated to raise a smile. A 4-oz. bottle of lavender-water—white glass bottle of the cheapest style, and everything else about it common; but it is when one comes to the label that the superiority of the Jap to all difficulties comes in. It does not require a powerful effort of the intellect to understand how the mixture of Boehm and Möller was produced.



### HOW JOHN CHINAMAN WAS DECEIVED.

A party of gay young Chinamen, when out on a spree in Shanghai some time ago, thought they would finish the day in grand style by having some English wine at their dinner-party, which, by the way, lasted from 6 to 10 P.M.: but the trouble was where to obtain some that would not "break the bank." They therefore ransacked a district known as the Yang-king-pang, in order to procure what they thought to be good yet inexpensive wine. Whilst in one of the shops they came across some "Star" hand-grenades, and,

not being able to read English, concluded from their general appearance that they contained wine. The purchase was made and they returned home in triumph, assured that they had a rare treat in store for their guests.

In due course the round blue bottles were opened, and their contents proudly poured into wine-cups and passed round. They then challenged each other to drink by throwing the right fist out at arm's length with one or two fingers extended, at the same time shouting numbers, as is customary with them when playing for wine at feasts. The "wine" was tasted and some horrible grimaces exchanged, but their etiquette forbade them refusing what was provided, their only resource being to politely decline having their glasses refilled. History does not record the effect it had on their economy, but it may safely be surmised that they felt very unwell afterwards and swore off the "foreigner's wine in blue bottles."

### PRESERVATIVES FOR EGGS.

For some time past mixtures of borax and salt, and salt-petre and salt, have been imported into China from Europe for the purpose of preserving the eggs, and also albumen, which are largely exported from that Empire; but owing to the fact that salt is contraband as an importation, the production and sale of it being a Government monopoly, the Customs officials have recently prohibited the importation of the above mixtures.

### A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE IS A DANGEROUS THING.

A story is told of a Chinaman at Hankow who called on an English doctor to be treated for fever, and on taking his prescription to the chemist got a bottle of quinine mixture,

On calling for a repeat of the same mixture some time afterwards he found the manager out; not being able to make the native assistant understand what he wanted he decided to help himself, and accordingly took a bottle with the word "Quinine" on the label, which was about all he could read. In a few days he found he was getting worse instead of better, so paid another visit to the physician, to whom he showed the bottle he had been drinking from. Not till then did he know that he had made a mistake and had been taking quinine hair-wash. (232/14.)

## Coming Events.

Notices of meetings are inserted free in this section if received by the Editor not later than Wednesday of the week before the meetings are held.

### Monday, January 8.

*Society of Chemical Industry* (London Section), Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., at 8 P.M. "Colour-photography," by Mr. J. W. Hinchley; "Cinchona," by Mr. J. M. V. Vergara; and "Microscopic-character of Vicuna, Camel-hair, and Alpaca," by Mr. R. M. Frideaux.

*Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland*, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 8.15 P.M. Report on pharmacy, by Mr. W. V. Johnston.

*Camera Club*, 28 Charing Cross Road, W.C., at 8.15 P.M. Mr. W. L. Howie on "Five European Capitals."

### Tuesday, January 9.

*Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W., at 3 P.M. Final lecture of course to juveniles on "Fluids in Motion and at Rest," by Mr. C. V. Boys.

*Chemists' Aerated and Mineral Waters Association (Limited)*.—Extraordinary general meeting at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., at 3 P.M. Resolutions passed at the general meeting will be submitted for confirmation.

### Wednesday, January 10.

*Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain*, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 11 P.M. Council meeting.

*Manchester Pharmaceutical Society*, at 7.30 P.M., in the Victoria Hotel, Manchester. Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones will give an address on "The P.A.T.A. and its Defence-fund."

*Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Chemists' Association*, Hotel Métropole, Newcastle, at 8.30. Discussion on trade topics. *Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society*, at 8.30. Students' night.

*Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association*, at 36 York Place, at 9.15 P.M. Apprentices' night. Short papers by Messrs. Grainger, Kidd, and Murdoch.

### Friday, January 12.

*Glasgow Chemists' and Druggists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association*, 10 West Regent Street, Glasgow, at 9.15. Musical evening.

*Irish Pharmacists' Assistants' Association*, at 8 P.M., in the X.L. Café, Grafton Street, Dublin. Dr. Walsh will lecture on "Nerves."

THE Chemists' Annual Ball will be held on January 17, at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W. Tickets—17s. 6*d.* (gentleman's) and 12s. 6*d.* (lady's)—can be had from Mr. W. Warren, 24 Russell Street, Covent Garden, W.C., or any of the stewards.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE STROLLERS are giving a dinner to-night (Thursday), at the Frascati Restaurant, when about 30 guests are expected to be present.

BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS.—A dispatch from Rio de Janeiro, dated January 3, states that the Brazilian Government has resolved to impose an additional tax of 10 per cent. on imports from Austria and Portugal, and 30 per cent. on imports from France and Italy. The new tax comes into operation on March 1.

MESSRS. SEABURY & JOHNSON have obtained the highest award at the National Export Exposition recently held at Philadelphia for the excellence of their plasters, dressings, surgical appliances, &c., exhibited there (see *C. & D.*, December 16, 1899). Professor Remington and Messrs. England and Beringer were the jurors.